



Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

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CONTENTS

17 January 1996

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INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Yemeni-Eritrean Conflict

Egypt's Mubarak, Yemen's Salih Meet [MENA]	1
Eritrean Coverage of Conflict Over Islands [cross-reference]	1

Inter-Arab Affairs

League Chief on Reconciliation, Iraq, Charter [MENA]	1
League Tries To Forge Iraqi-Syrian Water Front [AFP]	2
Sudanese, Libyan Envoys View U.S.-Arab Ties [AL-JUMHURIYAH 30 Dec]	2

Islamic Affairs

Political Islam Review: AL-SHA'B 29 Dec	4
Political Islam Review: 'AQIDATI 2 Jan	6

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat, Gore Discuss Cooperation, Peace Process	7
Hold News Conference in Jericho [Jericho VOP]	7
'Arafat Calls Talks 'Fruitful' [Jericho VOP]	8
Donor Nations Pledge \$865 Million in 1996 [Jericho VOP]	8
'Arafat Signs Agreement With Israel, Donor States [Jericho VOP]	8
Al-Husayni Warns of Violence in Jerusalem Voting [AFP]	8
Hamas Statement Urges Election Boycott [AFP]	9
Portugal's Soares Arrives To Observe Elections [Lisbon Radio]	9
Poll: 'Landslide' for Arafat With Hamas Support [AFP]	10
Al-Za'nun on Elections, Assembly, Autonomy Moves [Cairo International]	10
Disqualified Votes Reported High in Simulated Voting [DAVAR RISHON 17 Jan]	11
PLO Terms Set for Changing Charter, Autonomy Accords [AFP]	11
Al-Za'nun Comments on Amending National Charter [Jericho VOP]	11

ARAB AFRICA

Algeria

Foreign Minister Meets France's Chirac, de Charette [Algiers TV]	12
Further on Meeting [Algiers Radio]	12
FIS European Supporters Issue Newsletters	12
2 Jan Issue [Southall THE ENLIGHTENMENT 2 Jan]	12
9 Jan Issue [Southall THE ENLIGHTENMENT 9 Jan]	14

Egypt

Mubarak Phones Syria's al-Asad on Peace, Gore Visit [Cairo Radio]	18
Musa Comments on Peace Process, Arab Ties [London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 13 Jan]	18
Defense Minister Meets U.S. Military Delegation [MENA]	21

Commentary on U.S. Vice President Gore Visit	21
'Special Importance' Analyzed [MENA]	21
Papers on Mubarak-Gore Meeting [MENA]	23
Papers Note Impact of Visit [MENA]	23
Economic Strategy, Partnership Viewed [Cairo Radio]	24
Paper Foresees Extensive Economic Ties [MENA]	25
Radio Lauds Partnerships With U.S. [Cairo Radio]	25
Hamas Urged To Coordinate With Palestinian Authority [MENA]	26
Mubarak Outlines Measures for Encouraging Investment [MENA]	26
Mubarak Issues Decree on Governor Appointments [MENA]	27
Al-Janzeni on Criteria for Government Performance [MENA]	27
Correction to Sentencing of al-Jihad Figures	28
Sudan	
Al-Bashir on Regional, Domestic Issues [London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 15 Jan]	28
Opposition Decides To Boycott Elections [Cairo TV]	33
ARABIAN PENINSULA	
GCC Meets on Economic Challenge of Peace [AFP]	35
Bahrain	
Police Reportedly Fire at Crowds Outside Mosque [AFP]	35
Shiites Banned From Using Mosques for 'Subversion' [AFP]	35
Shiite Opposition Leader Arrested in 'Clampdown' [AFP]	36
Exiled Bahraini Opposition Figures Interviewed [AFP]	36
Press Urges 'Decisive' Action Against Inciters [WAKH]	37
Kuwait	
Iran's Foreign Minister Velayati Concludes Visit	37
Holds Talks With al-Sabah [Tehran TV]	37
Views Relations With Gulf States [KUNA]	38
Meets With Prince on Expanding Relations [IRNA]	39
Holds News Conference [IRNA]	39
Concludes Visit, Departs [KUNA]	40
National Assembly Speaker Praises Iran Relations [IRNA]	40
Country Said Satisfied Over Support From Iran [KUNA]	40
Syria's Yasin Arrives for Committee Meeting [KUNA]	41
Qatar	
Former Amir Reportedly Plans To Reclaim Throne [AL-'ARABI 8 Jan]	41
Saudi Arabia	
Paper Details King Fahd's 'Relapse' [London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI 13/14 Jan]	41
Envoy to Jordan Lauds Bilateral Relations [SPA]	41
Al-Mas'ari on Deportation Order; Use of Radio, TV [Paris Radio Monte Carlo]	42
United Arab Emirates	
Official: No Normalization Before Peace With Syria [SANA]	43
Yemen	
Salih, Peres Reportedly Meet at Mitterand Funeral [AFP]	43

'Responsible Source' Denies Meeting [Sanaa Radio]	43
Envoy Repeats Denial of Meeting [London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 12 Jan]	43
Salih Receives U.S. State Department Delegation [Sanaa Radio]	44
Salih Receives Tunisian Envoy, Letter [Sanaa Radio]	44
14 Leading Egyptian 'Extremists' Said Deported [MENA]	44
Former YSP Minister Returns From Exile [London AL-HAYAH 14 Jan]	44

IRAQ

Tariq 'Aziz Bid To Escape Reportedly Aborted [AL-BILAD 17 Jan]	46
Husayn Kamil Said To Pay 'Secret' Visit to Damascus [Voice of Iraqi People]	46
Hashim Hasan al-Majid Reportedly Arrested [AL-HADATH 17 Jan]	46
Minister: 'No Problems' in Relations With Jordan [London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 14 Jan]	46
Jordan Paper Publishes Citizen's Letter to al-Qadhdhafi [AL-RA'Y 14 Jan]	47
French National Assembly Delegation Pays Visit [Baghdad TV]	48
Iranian Mediation Among Kurdish Groups Said 'Failed' [MENA]	48
INA Editor 'Ridicules' U.S. Commander's Statements [Baghdad TV]	48
Embezzlement in Government Institutions Viewed [ALIF BA' 4 Oct]	49

ISRAEL

Peres: No Intervention in Syrian-Turkish Dispute [Tel Aviv Radio]	54
Intelligence Chief Views Syria, PA Performance [Tel Aviv Radio]	54
Netanyahu, Gore Discuss Position on Oslo Accord [DAVAR RISHON 17 Jan]	54
Beilin Urges Changing Status Quo on Jerusalem [DAVAR RISHON 17 Jan]	54
2 Soldiers Killed in 'Terrorist' Attack Near Hebron [Jerusalem Radio]	55
Likud: 'Arafat Encouraging Attacks [Jerusalem Radio]	56
Peres Comments on Attack [Jerusalem Radio]	56
Labor, Meretz, Likud Agree on Early Elections [Jerusalem Radio]	56
Knesset Rejects Tzomet Bill on Early Elections [Jerusalem Radio]	57
Knesset Approves Interim Agreement Bill [THE JERUSALEM POST 17 Jan]	57
Peres Seen of Two Minds About Early Elections [HA'ARETZ 1 Jan]	57
Transportation Agreement Signed With Jordan [Jerusalem Radio]	58
Shamgar Commission Releases Assassin's Testimony [Tel Aviv Radio]	58

JORDAN

Bid for Form of NATO Membership Said 'Premature' [London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 16 Jan]	60
Authorities To Deport Alleged Head of Iraqi Intelligence [AL-BILAD 17 Jan]	60
Iraq Asked To Stop Firing on Fleeing Soldiers [London AL-HAYAH 17 Jan]	60
Iraq Meeting Planned for 'February or Early March' [AL-MAJD 15 Jan]	60
Official Reacts to Syria Denying Entry to Trucks [JORDAN TIMES 14 Jan]	61
Minister Comments on Saudi Arabia's Offer of Oil [AL-ASWAQ 16 Jan]	61
King, Eritrean Minister Discuss Island Dispute [Amman Radio]	61
Cabinet Reshuffle After Palestinian Elections [AL-MAJD 15 Jan]	62
Columnist Replies to al-Sahhaf Criticism [AL-ASWAQ 13 Jan]	62
Editor Faces Charges for Article on Bahrain [JORDAN TIMES 15 Jan]	63

LEBANON

French Foreign Minister Arrives, Meets Buwayz [Beirut Radio]	65
Buwayz, De Charette Comment [Beirut Radio]	65
More on Comments [Beirut Radio]	65
De Charette on Peace [Beirut Radio]	67
Fadlallah Sees 'Positive Conclusion' to Talks [London AL-HAYAH 11 Jan]	67

Arrest Warrant Issued for SLA Commander Lahd [Beirut Radio]	67
Hizballah Claims Ability To 'Develop' Katyushas [London MBC TV]	67
Israelis Shell Areas; 'Resistance' Reacts [Beirut Radio]	67

SYRIA

Khaddam: Nothing Can Undermine Syrian-Iranian Ties [IRNA]	68
Iranian Foreign Minister Cited on 'Strong' Ties [Damascus Radio]	68
Al-Asad, French Official Discuss Peace Process [Jerusalem Radio]	68
Press on Resumption of Talks, Europe Role [Damascus Radio]	68
Commentary Urges Israel To Recognize Nation's Rights [Damascus Radio]	69
Muslim Brotherhood Leader Views Developments [AL-BILAD 17 Jan]	70
Al-Asad Inaugurates Craftsmen Congress [Damascus Radio]	71

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

Tehran Reports on Jalalabad, Islamabad Talks [Tehran International]	73
Taliban 'Inflexibility' Said To Prevent Progress [IRNA]	73
Ahmad Shah Mas'ud Publishes Rabbani Peace Plan [ITAR-TASS]	73
General Reportedly Defects to Hezb-e Eslami in Balkh [Message of Freedom]	74
President's Speech Focuses on 'Foreign Interventions' [Kabul Radio]	74
Groups Cast Doubt on UN Envoy Peace Mission [Tehran International]	75
Hezb-e Wahdat Official on U.S. 'Plots' Against Iran [IRNA]	76
Acting Prime Minister Criticizes Pakistan [Kabul Radio]	76
Hezb-e Wahdat Leader Appeals for End to Fighting [IRNA]	76
Hezb-e Wahdat Official Calls For Party Unity [IRNA]	76
Government Urges Warring Factions Toward Peace [IRNA]	77
HSC Discusses Current Political, Military Situation [Kabul Radio]	77
Women's Movement Condemns U.S. 'Colonialistic Goals' [IRNA]	77

India

Ministers To Face Charges in Money Deal Case [Delhi Radio]	77
Embassy Spokesman Comments on Missile Program [Delhi Radio]	78
Committee Formed for Release of Kashmir Hostages [Islamabad Radio]	78
Crew of French Vessel Arrested in Kerala [Delhi Radio]	78
Rao Comments on Ties With U.S., Brown Amendment [Delhi Radio]	78
Enron Dispute Linked to 'Economic Nationalism' [BUSINESS STANDARD 15 Jan]	78
Delhi Seeks Deportation of Bombay Blast Suspect [Delhi Radio]	79
Canadian Prime Minister on "Trade Mission"	79
Pushes Non-Proliferation Treaty [Montreal International]	79
Meets Rao, Narayanan; Signs MOUs [Delhi Radio]	80
Rao on Cooperation With Canada [Delhi Radio]	80
Joint Ventures Finalized [Delhi Radio]	80
Trade Expansion Areas Identified [Delhi Radio]	80
Business Deals Signed [Delhi Radio]	81
Joint Statement Issued [ISI]	81
Trade Information Agreement Signed With Ontario [Delhi Radio]	82
Iran's Velayati Continues Official Visit	82
Meets Islamic Association Members [Tehran Radio]	82
Talks With Mukherjee [Delhi Radio]	82
Discusses Cooperation With Rao [Delhi Radio]	82

Iran

Velayati on U.S. Sanctions, Turkey, European Ties [KHORASAN 27 Dec]	83
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Rafsanjani: West's 'Greed' Harmful to Central Asia [Tehran Radio]	83
Jannati Condemns U.S. in Friday Prayers [Tehran Radio]	84
Majles Deputy: U.S. Sanctions 'Totally Failed' [IRNA]	86
Nateq-Nuri on Majles Funds To Counter U.S. 'Plots' [IRNA]	87
Habibi on Efforts To 'Harm Relations' With Neighbors [Tehran Radio]	87
Tehran Views Habibi Visit, Territorial Claims [Tehran Radio]	87
SALAM Column Reflects Economic, Social Problems [FBIS Media Note]	88

Pakistan

Editorial Claims India Manufacturing New Missiles [JASARAT 16 Jan]	91
Bhutto's Stand on Nuclear Issues Supported [JANG 16 Jan]	92
Bhutto Discusses Afghanistan With UN Special Envoy [Islamabad Radio]	92
Foreign Minister Ready for Kashmir Talks With India [THE NATION 17 Jan]	92
Canada's Chretien Urges Nuclear-Free South Asia [Islamabad Radio]	93
Spanish Defense Staff Chief Meets With Leghari [Islamabad TV]	93
Talks With Defense Minister [Islamabad Radio]	93
Iranian Official Discusses Rail Links [Islamabad TV]	93
Iranian Speaker Lauds Senate Statement [IRNA]	94
Deportation of MQM Leader From UK Requested [THE MUSLIM 14 Jan]	94
Culture Minister Assassinated by 'Unidentified' Men [THE MUSLIM 16 Jan]	94
Threats Force Tightened Security at Karachi Airport [DAWN 16 Jan]	95
AJK Official Rules Out Expulsion of Afghans [THE FRONTIER POST 12 Jan]	96
Torkham Checkpoint Closed to Afghan Refugees [THE NATION 14 Jan]	96
Afghan Intelligence Official Among Detained 'Terrorists' [THE NEWS 15 Jan]	97
Alleged MQM Activist Arrested Amidst Karachi Violence [THE NEWS 16 Jan]	97
Court Rejects 'Open Trial' for Alleged Coup Plotters [THE NATION 16 Jan]	97
New Army Chief Allowed To Choose Staff [THE NATION 14 Jan]	97
Minister Renews Talks Offer to Opposition [Islamabad Radio]	98

Sri Lanka

UK Urged To Crack Down on Tamil Tiger Fund Raising [Colombo International]	98
Government To Help Iraq Maintain Embassy in Colombo [Colombo International]	99
India Provides Loan of 1.62 Billion Rupees [Colombo International]	99
Norway, Sweden Provide Loan for Power Project [Colombo International]	99
LTTE Leaders Reportedly Engaged in Power Struggle [LANKAPUVATH]	99
LTTE Claims Government Building Naval Base Near Jaffna [TAMIL EELAM NEWS WWW 12 Jan]	100
LTTE Dispatch Details Attack on EPDP Positions [TAMIL EELAM NEWS WWW 14 Jan]	100
LTTE: Church Used Like 'Concentration Camp' [TAMIL EELAM NEWS WWW 15 Jan]	101
National Peace Council Backs Devolution Proposals [SUNDAY OBSERVER 14 Jan]	102
Minister Releases 'Legal Draft' [DAILY NEWS 17 Jan]	103

Yemeni-Eritrean Conflict

Egypt's Mubarak, Yemen's Salih Meet

NC1201140996 *Cairo MENA in English*
1350 GMT 12 Jan 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Paris, Jan 12 (MENA)—Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak this morning received Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih at Crillion Hotel, where Mubarak is staying.

The meeting between President Hosni Mubarak and the Yemeni president was attended by Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa and his Yemeni counterpart 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani as well as Dr. Usamah al-Baz, first foreign undersecretary and head of the President's Office for Political Affairs.

The meeting was also attended by Egypt's Ambassador to France 'Ali Mahir and Yemen's Ambassador in the French capital Muhammad al-Iryani.

The Mubarak-Salih meeting lasted 50 minutes, following which the two leaders emerged out and met with mediators.

President Salih said he discussed with President Mubarak a number of bilateral issues as well as topics of mutual interest. He noted that this is not the first and will not be the last meeting and there is continued communication with brother President Mubarak.

On the situation between Yemen and Eritrea, the Yemeni president said the issue was examined during the meeting. We work to contain matters day after day so that the differences would not be expanded and would be diplomatically contained, he added.

On reports about the Elysee meeting with Israeli Premier Shimon Peres, the Yemeni president said this is untrue. There were sovereigns and heads of state representing around a hundred and sixty countries and all met with each others, President Salih said, stressing that all reports about a separate meeting or a tete-a-tete discussion were untrue.

On the reasons behind the Eritrean escalation at this stage, the Yemeni president expressed regret that a sisterly neighbouring country carried out such an operation. We did not expect Eritrea to do what it has done, he said, noting that Egypt, Ethiopia and France as well as the UN secretary general are exerting efforts to contain the matter.

We agree that it is necessary that the issue should not be escalated any further, President Salih said.

Asked about the outcome of the Egyptian mediation between Eritrea and Yemen, President Mubarak said he could not give any details. The two sides—President Isa-

ias Afwerki of Eritrea and President 'Abdallah Salih—display a desire to resolve the problem, President Mubarak said, stressing that if the two presidents met, the two sides would reach a just solution.

Yemen and Eritrea are two friendly countries and we work to reconcile them, the president said.

On the Egyptian mediation, President Mubarak said they met before, the foreign minister paid visits to Yemen and Eritrea and Egypt sent a delegation twice to the two countries. I hope the two presidents will meet, for this can resolve the issue, President Mubarak added.

On his relationship with late French President Francois Mitterrand, President Mubarak said he met with the late president when he (Mubarak) was vice president and that they also met when Mitterrand visited Egypt to give condolences over the death of late President Sadat.

Since then, the relationship between them became very strong, the president added.

Late President Mitterrand was a statesman of a unique type, and had a very high experience, logic and principles, the president said.

In December he visited Egypt and was hosted in some villages and was very happy as the peasants made him their famous pastry, the president said, accentuating that the late French president always preferred to rest in Aswan in Upper Egypt.

Eritrean Coverage of Conflict Over Islands

WA2012150095

For further reportage of the Eritrean-Yemeni confrontation over the Hanish Islands in the Red Sea, including official Eritrean Foreign Ministry statements, please see the East Africa section of the 19 December Sub-Saharan Africa DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

Inter-Arab Affairs

League Chief on Reconciliation, Iraq, Charter

NC1501102496 *Cairo MENA in Arabic*
0605 GMT 15 Jan 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 15 Jan (MENA)—Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Isamat 'Abd-al-Majid has asserted that Arab reconciliation is necessary, noting that without it we cannot coordinate or achieve harmony.

In an interview with AL-AHRAM today, he said: Today we are trying to call for pan-Arab reconciliation based on openness so as to unite and view the future with the outlook demanded by the Arab public.

— Sudan's opposition to the entry of western and U.S. forces into the Arabian Gulf region and its support for Iraq.

— The renewal of the war in southern Sudan and its various repercussions.

The Sudanese ambassador referred to the statement made by U.S. national security adviser Anthony Lake, who visited the area in February last year and said: We are pressuring Khartoum in order to contain it through its neighbors. The Sudanese ambassador said that the word "contain" has a political significance in Washington, where Sudan is considered an element of instability.

Salah al-Mukhtar commented on U.S. policy toward Sudan by saying: It is part of the general policy of splitting states into small entities. In Ethiopia, the situation has changed from the existence of two conflicting blocs to the emergence of ethnic parties. U.S. research centers call this phenomenon ethnic democracy. It is similar to the Israeli aim of splitting the Arab states on sectarian and ethnic grounds.

Dr. Ibrahim Abu-Khizam, secretary of the Libyan Brotherhood Bureau, began his lecture by saying: This is a serious and important subject in view of the predominance of U.S. concepts in the international media, and the distorted views held by intellectuals who are influenced by these media. This is also why the view of "terrorism" held by many of us is so close to the U.S. concept.

In his analysis of the Lockerbie crisis, the ambassador cited the following basic rules:

— The collapse of empires creates more problems than solutions. In describing the world following the collapse of the former Soviet Union, [former French Defense Minister] Jean-Pierre Chauvenment said that history does not repeat itself with the same events but with the same rules. Not a single regional problem has been resolved in true manner.

— The universality and interconnection of world problems. U.S. policy can only be understood if viewed in a wider perspective, and the correct understanding is to acknowledge the existence of a U.S. strategy which clashes with policies here and there, as in Sudan, Iraq, and Libya.

— We are going through a transitional phase. The international order has not emerged yet. We are in a transitional phase between the old order and the new one which has not evolved yet. Washington wants to arrange the affairs of the world in its capacity as the

only world superpower in accordance with its strategic interests.

— Washington has invented keys for regional interference in the service of its conflict with other emerging powers, such as united Europe, Germany, and Japan. Iraq was the key for interference in the Arabian Gulf region. This has been clear since U.S. President Richard Nixon's first book: "Victory Without War" in which he said that the Arabian Gulf and its vicinity was the most important region in the post-Cold War period, and that it was important to hold the strings to the region. Nixon voiced direct military intervention as one of the main options, irrespective of what happened later in 1990-1991. Washington would invent any excuse or pretext for attacking Iraq, which was viewed to have exceeded the red lines by its regional and pan-Arab policies and scientific progress.

— The Lockerbie issue was the key for U.S. interference in the Arab Maghreb. Europe could not understand this issue and the harm it was doing to its interests because of the surfacing of the conflict between the Latin culture and the Anglo-Saxon culture, which tried to drag Europe across the Atlantic to make it understand the aims of U.S. strategy in return for the preservation of Europe's vital interests.

Abu-Khizam says: Internationally, we were surprised by Russia's approval of the sanctions against Libya, with which it deals in billions of dollars annually. Federal Russia's economic problems will not be resolved by foreign aid, but through an active policy of cooperation with such important states as Iraq and Libya. The one who closed this source of finance to Moscow was Washington. This is the cause of our surprise!

Dr. Abu-Khizam warned against the phenomenon of liberal parties or publicizing the U.S. democratic model. He said the cultural plan of the Arab nation, as one nation, is the only counterpart for the U.S. plan. Therefore, he said, we must resist and continue to resist and never bow our heads, because bowed heads are closer to the sword of the U.S. executioner.

Sa'd Qasim Hammudi, secretary general of the Arab Popular Forces Conference, commented on the two lectures by saying: The basic conflict is between the cultural national plan of the Arab nation which aspires for unity, democracy, justice, and progress, and the imperialist-Zionist plan, which is aimed at maintaining the division, backwardness, subservience, avaricious monopolistic plundering of national resources, protection of the Zionist entity, normalization of relations with it, and its merger into the fabric of our region under the name of the new Middle Eastern order.

Several professors of political science and Iraqi intellectuals took part in the discussions, including Dr. Mazin al-Ramadani, dean of the Political Science Faculty at Saddam University; Dr. Hani al-Hadithi; Dr. Jamil Mis'ib; Dr. Muhammad al-Da'mi; Madam Nasirah al-Sa'dun, Yasin al-Husayni, and Mu'ayyad Mu'ammam.

The forum was attended by Arab ambassadors, the ambassador of China, the charge d'affaires at the Embassy of Iran, a large number of diplomats who are accredited to Iraq, and the presidents of several professional and popular organizations.

Islamic Affairs

Political Islam Review: AL-SHA'B 29 Dec

NC0701210396

[FBIS Editorial Report] The following is a comprehensive review of all items in the 29 December edition of the Arabic language newspaper AL-SHA'B that pertain to political Islamic issues.

CONTENTS:

1. Paper Reacts to Mubarak's Campaign Against Labor Party
2. Writers, Islamists Welcome Turkish Election Results
3. Controversy Over Election Results Continue
4. Hamas Leader Interviewed on Talks With PA, Elections

PAPER REACTS TO MUBARAK'S CAMPAIGN AGAINST LABOR PARTY

An 800-word unattributed report on page 1 headlined "The President Continues his Campaign Against the Labor Party and AL-SHA'B Newspaper," reacts to President Mubarak's remarks at a meeting with teachers participating in a training course on 27 December. In his remarks President Mubarak claimed a suspicious link between certain writers and the extremists, accused the opposition papers of casting doubt on achievements, and criticized AL-SHA'B chief editor Majdi Husayn's interview with Robert Fisk of the British paper THE INDEPENDENT. He expressed his regret because certain Egyptians provide the foreign media with information that distorts Egypt and thus harms the livelihood of Egyptians abroad. The report says that President Mubarak's criticism of the Labor Party and AL-SHA'B and its chief editor would have been a good sign of democracy since he has a right to defend his views and assail the opposition parties. However, President Mubarak did not confine his opposition to expressing views. Since 1995, he has been taking one practical step after another to "eliminate the margin of democ-

racy." Also, he associated his words with threats. The report highlights Majdi Husayn's remarks to Fisk to show that he did not say anything against Egypt. On the contrary, he praised Mubarak's attitude in the first years of his term when he was open to opposition leaders. The report notes that President Mubarak was angered when the Islamic opposition won 60 seats in the previous elections. He resolved not to allow it to win again. Mubarak's main goal, the report says, is to restrain and restrict the opposition opinion. The report vows that the Labor Party and AL-SHA'B "will continue" to express their views "regardless of threats, trials, and jails."

WRITERS, ISLAMISTS WELCOME TURKISH ELECTION RESULTS

A 60-word report on page one notes that Labor Party leader Ibrahim Shukri and Muslim Brotherhood [MB] General Guide Hamid Abu-al-Nasr cabled congratulations to Turkish Welfare Party Leader Necmettin Erbakan for his party's triumph in the legislative elections.

A 600-word account on page 1 by Muhammad Jamal 'Arafah says that Turkish political sources believe that the Turkish army command, the main supporter of secularism and opponent to Islam, is expected to intensify pressure on President Demirel to prevent the Islamic Welfare Party from forming a new cabinet. The sources said that the army command which "expelled 2,000 officers and NCO's suspected of belonging to the Islamic trend two weeks before the elections" warned that Erbakan might make decisions or pass laws on education and military service to revive Islamic character and traditions and separate Turkey from Europe. The report notes that pressure is increasing within the Welfare Party ranks for not entering into a weak alliance to form a cabinet and instead waiting for another round of elections to win more votes and form a cabinet in its own right.

Labor Party Secretary General 'Adil Husayn writes an approximately 4,000 word article on page 5 headlined "Necmettin Erbakan Insists on the Democratic Path; What About the Military?" He begins his article by saying "O rulers, we will never let you get away with your coup d'etat on the Constitution and party plurality. How could we? Shall we leave the rule in the hands of a usurper gang? Yes, you are a gang and not a government of any sort. There can be no government without laws and norms. If laws and the verdicts of the judiciary are trampled upon in any society, those in charge would not be considered as governments that must be obeyed but an oppressive gang that the nation must struggle to remove." He goes on to say: "How could you — you who staged the November coup d'etat, think that we will leave you alone and busy ourselves with other

issues? Is there any other business? Removing you is our sole preoccupation until we save the nation, God willing, from your oppression and evil." He then vows that the nation will continue its jihad to bring down the false People's Assembly and will, God willing, impose free elections to serve as a means to remove the rulers.

Husayn then elaborates on the growth of the Islamic movement in Turkey since Kemal Ataturk's clampdown on Islamic tradition and Necmettin Erbakan's efforts to revive Islam in Turkey. He reviews the welfare Party's victory in the recent elections, noting its rejection of unification with Europe and the customs agreement with EU and call for confronting Israel. He notes Erbakan's remarks to his supporters "we are headed to taking power and our people, God willing, will join their Muslim brothers." Husayn then asks the Egyptian rulers with whom shall we side? Will you side with the Islamic transformation in Turkey, and all its orientations, or with the United States and Israel? He argues that the silence of the government and its media about the significance of the Turkish elections results indicates that the Egyptian rulers will opt for the latter. He concludes by saying that removing the Egyptian rulers from power through free elections has become "an urgent necessity."

CONTROVERSY OVER ELECTION RESULTS CONTINUE

In a 200-word account on page 1 headlined "The Government Intends to Defy Judicial Verdicts to Dissolve the People's Assembly," Mahmud Bakri says that a judicial committee report on the government instructions on the challenges submitted by candidates in the recent People's Assembly elections dispelled the government fear of dissolving the new People's Assembly. The report offered flimsy justifications for the validity of the false People's Assembly, despite any possible judicial verdicts. The report claims that the People's Assembly is empowered to debate and investigate these challenges, that the Higher Appeal Court has no binding authority, and that legal reasons are not sufficient cause to dissolve the People's Assembly.

A related 140-word report on the same page says that 850 challenges have been submitted to the People's Assembly, considering the membership of the new deputies null and void. AL-SHA'B has learned that the People's Assembly referred all the challenges to the Higher Appeal Court, which has begun to take the necessary measures to investigate the challenges and hear the challengers' views and evidence. A parliamentary source asserted that all People's Assembly members are facing challenges of invalidity of their membership.

In a 2,500-word report on pages 2 and 8, 'Amr Salman recounts a seminar held at the Cairo Center of Human Rights Studies on 25 December. He notes that deputies, former deputies, university professors, and candidates spoke on the recent elections. Dr. Hamdi al-Sayyid, People's Assembly member and doctors doyen, said he ran in elections eight times, but these elections were "his worst experiment ever" and that it is difficult for him to convince himself to run again if the current state of affairs remain. He asserts the elections were absolutely not democratic, noting the wave of violence that left 51 dead, 1,400 wounded and more than 2,000 detained. He claims that the police role was confined to activities outside the polling centers and turned a blind eye to the "thuggery and violence" inside the centers. He emphasizes that judicial supervision was "theatrical." He admits that there was "strong determination" by the security agencies and others that the "enlightened Islamic trend must not be represented in the People's Assembly." He notes that the representatives of the Islamic stream in the former People's Assemblies were moderate and their participation was "constructive and positive" and that it is "not in the interest of the homeland to block all legal ways and means before this stream," particularly because their views and ideas are extremely moderate and they were the only segment that ran in the elections with clear and specific principles.

Independent candidate Fikri al-Jazzar claims that this People's Assembly was chosen for "normalization" [of ties with Israel]. He contends that preparations for this Assembly were made a long time ago by a host of what honest people described as "notorious laws," particularly law 100 to subvert the professional associations, law 94 on appointment of mayors, law 132 of 1994 on appointment of university deans, law 37 of 1994 on the renewal of the emergency law, and law 93 of 1995 to "assassinate the press." He claims that the recent elections were "a massacre of democracy" and a public usurpation of the people's will before their own eyes and under the nose of the whole world. He says that the elections were run by the State Security Intelligence Service and the Public Security Forces. He opines that President Mubarak "missed his life's opportunity to be the champion of democracy" not in Egypt or the Middle East alone, but in the Third World. He says he expected President Mubarak before the runoff elections to issue a republican decree to set a new date for new elections under full judicial supervision. He maintains that President Mubarak would have capped his life as one of the champions of democracy in the world, like Jamal 'Abd-al-Nasir by his action to nationalize the Suez Canal and Anwar al-Sadat by launching the October War of 1973.

On the same page is a 2,600-word report by the Egyptian Human Rights Organization detailing the various abuses, violence, violations, detention, and rigging in the People's Assembly elections.

An approximately 4,000-word text of a final report by the Egyptian Committee on the Followup of the Elections appears on page 3. The report says that the committee is comprised of independent public figures and sponsored by the five opposition parties—the Wafd, the National Progressive Unionist Party, the Nasirite Arab Democratic Party, and Liberal party. The report notes among other things the committee's goals, establishment, the climate that preceded the elections in Egypt, the people's indifference and apathy to politics, and the laws passed to pave the way for the elections.

HAMAS LEADER INTERVIEWED ON TALKS WITH PA, ELECTIONS

The back page features a 1,150-word interview by Quth al-'Arabi of Khalid Mish'al, head of the Hamas delegation to the Cairo talks with the Palestinian Authority [PA] delegation.

Political Islam Review: 'AQIDATI 2 Jan NC0901104896

[FBIS Editorial Report] The following is a comprehensive review of all items in the 2 January edition of the Arabic language newspaper 'AQIDATI that pertain to political Islamic issues.

CONTENTS:

1. Christian Figure Interviewed on Dialogue, Peace, Coexistence
2. Ulema Accuse Historian of Committing Major Sin in Interview
3. Outstanding al-Azhar Students Honored; Newspaper Praised
4. Emergency Declared on Expected Arrival of Jews To Visit Grave
5. Australian Islamic Leader Interviewed
6. Writer Notes Enemy Attempts To Divide Arabs, Muslims
7. Film Producer Sentenced for Hanging 'Indecent' Posters

CHRISTIAN FIGURE INTERVIEWED ON DIALOGUE, PEACE, COEXISTENCE

Al-Sayyid 'Abd-al-Ra'uf and Muhammad al-Abnudi interview Reverend Samuel Habib, a prominent Christian figure in Egypt, on the dialogue between religions and the issue of peace. In the 2,500-word interview, on pages 8 and 9, Dr. Habib stresses the need for deep

and enlightened dialogue among the followers of the three heavenly religions, especially in the Middle East, the birthplace of all religions. "It is very important that we make religious dialogue our primary task" in the region, he says. "Dialogue," he explains, "is not meant to change the identity of the interlocutors; it is an opportunity to achieve understanding and a means for people to come closer."

Dr. Habib maintains that there is a great deal of common ground among religions and that the issue of peace is central to all of them. But he notes that political and cultural affiliations have created gaps among the followers of the various faiths. He attributes wars in Bosnia-Herzegovina, Palestine, Lebanon, and Ireland to people's failure to coexist religiously. People must learn how to coexist, he says, adding that "coexistence means that each side learns how to accept" and appreciate the other. Asked about peace with Israel, he says: "Israel is a reality, whether we accept that or not. Peace with it was forced on the region, but that resulted in achievements that would not have been possible through war. Bethlehem and entire cities returned to the Palestinians through peace."

ULEMA ACCUSE HISTORIAN OF COMMITTING MAJOR SIN IN INTERVIEW

In a 2,000-word report on page 10, Jamal Salim cites three al-Azhar ulema reacting to statements Islamic historian Dr. Ahmad al-Shalabi made to the newspaper and published in the 26 December issue. The ulema, all professors at Islamic colleges, cite several sayings by the Prophet Muhammad to prove that the Expected Mahdi and the Antichrist are not "myths" as claimed by Dr. al-Shalabi. They are cited as saying that Dr. al-Shalabi "denied correct sayings by the prophet, which creates confusion among the Islamic public." They take him to task for "interfering in something outside his specialization." Dr. Musa Shahin, professor of Hadith [the Prophet Muhammad's sayings] at al-Azhar University, says that Dr. al-Shalabi "is fond of disagreeing with the masses and of coming up with strange things." He notes that 10 years ago, Dr. al-Shalabi denied the story of the Prophet Muhammad's night journey from Mecca to Jerusalem and his ascension to heaven. For his part, Dr. 'Abd-al-Mun'im Najm, another Hadith professor, says Dr. al-Shalabi "is committing a major sin." The one who denies substantiated sayings by the prophet is "impious," he says.

OUTSTANDING AL-AZHAR STUDENTS HONORED; NEWSPAPER PRAISED

In its middle pages, 12 and 13, the newspaper publishes reports on a ceremony organized by 'AQIDATI to

award outstanding students at al-Azhar colleges and the ulema who worked with the newspaper since it was launched three years ago. In a 2,000-word report by Muhammad al-Abnudi, and a 500-word report by Mustafa Yasin, the Awqaf minister and other al-Azhar figures are cited as praising 'AQIDATI's efforts and initiative to honor ulema and Islamic students. They commend the newspaper for offering "true" Islamic thought, upholding Islamic principles and virtues, and correcting false ideas about Islam.

—A 500-word editorial on page 3 says 'AQIDATI's honoring of outstanding al-Azhar students is "a bright spot in the history of al-Azhar education, which, in earlier times, was intentionally ignored and tendentiously attacked." It says education in al-Azhar colleges is now receiving attention it did not receive for many years.

—A 150-word unattributed report on pages 1 and 21 cites a poll of al-Azhar students, conducted by a religious education college in the city of Damanhur, as concluding that 'AQIDATI is "the best Islamic newspaper at the level of the Arab and Islamic world." The college dean is cited as saying the newspaper was selected because it is a moderate newspaper that defends Islamic issues firmly and competently and respects opposing opinions.

EMERGENCY DECLARED ON EXPECTED ARRIVAL OF JEWS TO VISIT GRAVE

A 200-word unattributed report on page 2 says al-Buhayrah Governorate has declared "a high state of emergency" to face the expected "influx" of Jews from Morocco and other countries to visit Abu-Hasirah's Jewish holy shrine on the anniversary of his birthday. The report says security measures were tightened and the inhabitants of the area were told not to leave their houses at certain hours and to "keep doors and windows shut." The report notes a state of "resentment" among the inhabitants, "who began to leave their village and stay with relatives at Damanhur or in hotels until the Jewish influx ends." The report says the number of Jews is expected to increase this year despite a lawsuit filed by a lawyer demanding that the area of the shrine be reduced to what it was before the peace agreement with Israel, and "that the Jews be banned from defying the Islamic shari'ah and ethics while celebrating the birthday of Abu-Hasirah."

AUSTRALIAN ISLAMIC LEADER INTERVIEWED

In its "Muslims Worldwide" page, page 20, the newspaper publishes a 900-word interview conducted by Jamal Salim with Shaykh Muhammad Diya'-al-Rahman, president of the Islamic center in Australia. He discusses

the situation of Muslims in the country, noting that they practice their religious rituals freely. He says that although Jews in Australia number no more than 60,000, they are powerful enough to try to distort the image of Muslims and create sedition among them. But Muslims, he says, are wise and enlightened enough to protect themselves from the "Zionist conspiracies."

WRITER NOTES ENEMY ATTEMPTS TO DIVIDE ARABS, MUSLIMS

In a 250-word article on page 20, 'Adil Dayf notes the emergence of new conflicts between Yemen and Eritrea and between Algeria and Morocco and says that the enemies of Arabs and Muslims create crises for this nation whenever it closes its ranks and demonstrates solidarity. He says the enemies, notably Israel, are trying to undermine Arab reconciliation efforts and divide the Arab and Muslim nation so that they will continue to control the region and its resources. He urges Arabs to put an end to all their conflicts.

FILM PRODUCER SENTENCED FOR HANGING 'INDECENT' POSTERS

A 100-word unattributed report on page 2 says an appeals court has commuted the sentence on a film producer from three months in prison at hard labor and a 500-pound fine to only a 500-pound fine. The imprisonment was canceled because of the producer's old age. The report says Shaykh Yusuf al-Badri and other lawyers had sued the producer and movie house owner for displaying "indecent posters" on the cinema window on a public street.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat, Gore Discuss Cooperation, Peace Process

Hold News Conference in Jericho

JN1601150096 *Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic*
1400 GMT 16 Jan 96

[FBIS Translated Text] President Yasir 'Arafat and U.S. Vice President Al Gore are currently holding a joint news conference at the Presidential Office in Jericho.

The Palestinian side led by President 'Arafat and the U.S. side led by Al Gore held a closed meeting this afternoon, followed by another meeting that was attended by Palestinian and U.S. businessmen. They discussed ways of promoting spheres of cooperation and investment and the implementation of the Oslo B agreement in light of the National Authority's takeover of most of the West Bank towns and the holding of the

Palestinian presidential and legislative elections slated for 20 January.

U.S. Vice President Al Gore arrived in Jericho this afternoon in the second official visit to Jericho under the National Authority. He was welcomed by President Yasir 'Arafat and many Palestinian officials.

'Arafat Calls Talks 'Fruitful'

*JN1601195096 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic
1900 GMT 16 Jan 96*

[FBIS Translated Text] President Yasir 'Arafat said he had important, fruitful, and constructive talks with U.S. Vice President Al Gore at the Presidency in Jericho. At a joint news conference with Al Gore, President 'Arafat said he discussed with the U.S. official the Israeli obstacles to the presidential and legislative elections in Jerusalem and Hebron, as well as the release of Palestinian prisoners.

President 'Arafat thanked the U.S. Administration and President Clinton for their support of the National Authority and the peace process. He said the peace process on the Palestinian-Israeli track and on other Arab-Israeli tracks should make headway to achieve a just and comprehensive solution in the Middle East.

President 'Arafat also valued the U.S. stance that supported the Palestinian people during the conference of the donor nations in Paris.

Donor Nations Pledge \$865 Million in 1996

*JN0901200596 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic
1900 GMT 9 Jan 96*

[FBIS Translated Text] French Foreign Affairs Minister Herve de Charette announced in Paris today that the donor nations have pledged to offer \$865 million in economic aid to the Palestinians.

At a news conference at the conclusion of the donor nations conference, Herve de Charette added: If we are to add to this amount the amounts pledged and not used since 1993, this means that the Palestinians will receive some \$1.365 billion.

In a speech at the ministerial donor nations conference held in Paris today, His Excellency President Yasir 'Arafat urged the donor nations to fulfill the financial obligations they failed to fulfill in 1995 to augment the 1996 budget. He commended the countries that have honored their obligations to the Palestinian people and their National Authority, and made contributions to rehabilitate the infrastructure which was destroyed by the Israeli occupation authorities over the past 28 years.

President 'Arafat asked Israel to halt the closure of Palestinian areas, and not to block the efforts of the Palestinian businessmen who seek to invest in the homeland.

'Arafat Signs Agreement With Israel, Donor States

*JN1001082396 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic
0600 GMT 10 Jan 96*

[FBIS Translated Text] The Palestinian Authority [PA], the donor states, and Israel signed a tripartite action plan in Paris yesterday. According to this plan, the Israeli Government will pay the taxes and custom fees that are due to the PA, and will facilitate the free movement of people and funds across the border. The donor states pledged to promote the Palestinian economy and fulfill their financial obligations without hesitation.

The action plan was signed by President Yasir 'Arafat for the Palestinian side, Foreign Minister Ehud Barak for the Israeli side, and Norwegian Foreign Minister Tore Godal for the donor states.

Israeli Prime Minister Shim'on Peres recently said that Israel intends to give back to the PA \$300 million levied as value added taxes and other custom fees.

Al-Husayni Warns of Violence in Jerusalem Voting

*NC1601172296 Paris AFP in English
1439 GMT 16 Jan 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Jerusalem, Jan 16 (AFP)—A senior Palestinian official warned Tuesday [16 January] that violence could break out during voting in annexed east Jerusalem if the Israeli right-wing tried to disrupt the polling at post offices.

"We know what the Israeli right can do. There is no limitation ... by their provocations they succeeded in pushing someone to kill the prime minister of Israel," Faysal al-Husayni said, referring to Yitzhak Rabin's assassination. "If they are allowed to reach here, there will be violence. Those people are out of their mind, they can do anything," al-Husayni, who is in charge of Jerusalem affairs for the Palestinian Authority, told journalists.

But Israeli police have said they would deploy 2,000 extra police in East Jerusalem to guard against attack by "extremist Jews or Arabs opposed to the peace process." Some 70,000 Palestinians in East Jerusalem have registered to vote in the West Bank and Gaza Strip elections for an autonomy council and president of a self-rule authority.

East Jerusalem, which has an Arab population of about 160,000, was annexed by Israel after the 1967 war and

the Israeli right has complained that Palestinian voting here poses a threat to Israel's sovereignty over the city.

The right-wing and Jewish settlers have called for a mass demonstration "in defence of Jerusalem" on polling day, but only after sunset when the Jewish sabbath comes to a close.

Israeli police spokesman Eric Bar Chen, meanwhile, said police would not enter the post offices unless problems arose and that the Palestinians would be allowed to use private guards who could carry guns if licensed.

Al-Husayni also complained that Israel insisted on normal postal services during the Jerusalem vote, meaning the electorate will queue alongside people buying stamps, although at different counters. "It will be an invitation for Israeli groups who announced they would do everything to stop the elections to come inside the stations and do whatever they want," he said. "They are giving them free access ... They are simply putting the gasoline beside the fire."

In Jericho on the West Bank, Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat and U.S. Vice President Al Gore discussed the problem of voting in Jerusalem, as well as in the flashpoint town of Hebron where the Israeli army is still deployed. "We will be able to overcome these problems before election day, as we have overcome other problems before," said 'Arafat.

The Palestinians wanted the five East Jerusalem post offices open only for voting on Saturday, but Israel insists that the voting in its declared capital be seen as no more a postal ballot.

Palestinian authorities moved Tuesday to reassure voters in east Jerusalem after right-wing Israelis threatened reprisals against residents who take part in the elections. Poll organizers ran advertisements in Palestinian newspapers denying that east Jerusalem Palestinians who vote could lose their Israeli-issued residency cards which give them social benefits.

"Some forces in the Israeli right distributed signs yesterday aiming to damage the election process and terrorize you from participating in this important Palestinian event," the Central Election Commission said. "The commission asks you to ignore such incitement."

Hamas Statement Urges Election Boycott

NC1601190996 Paris AFP in English
1743 GMT 16 Jan 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Jerusalem, Jan 16 (AFP)—The radical Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) called in

a statement issued on Tuesday [16 January] for a boycott of the Palestinian general election.

"As we are convinced that our people deserve authentic and representative elections, we have decided to boycott the vote and we call on our people to boycott it," said the statement distributed in the West Bank.

"So as not to harm national unity, Hamas has decided not to resort to force to make these elections fail," it said.

The Palestinian Authority failed to persuade Hamas, a fierce opponent of the autonomy deals with Israel, to take part in Saturday's polls. But the movement committed itself not to call for voters to stay away.

It was not immediately clear if the latest statement had the support of the Hamas leadership.

Portugal's Soares Arrives To Observe Elections

LD1601234696 Lisbon Radio Renascenca
in Portuguese to Europe 2200 GMT 16 Jan 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] President Mario Soares is back in Jerusalem playing the role of international observer for next Saturday's [20 January] Palestinian elections.

The president of the republic, representing the EU, will have meetings with the two candidates in the first elections to be held in the Palestinian autonomous territory. He will also take the opportunity to meet Israeli Prime Minister Shim'on Peres.

Upon arrival in Jerusalem this evening, Mario Soares spoke to our correspondent Raquel Abecassis: [passage omitted]

[Begin Soares recording] I have been informed that I am, after all, the only observer of the four designees to turn up to represent the EU. Jacques Delors is not coming; Mr. Genscher, I understand, has been taken ill and is in hospital; and Mrs. Thatcher said at an early stage that she could not come. So I am really the only one who has turned up.

They are naturally interested in giving something of a high profile to the EU, all the more so since it is the EU that is bearing the main financial brunt of this electoral process.

President Carter will arrive tomorrow and Vice President Al Gore was here today — I believe he has already left. This shows that the Americans are giving great visibility to their presence here; and Europe less so, for the reasons I have outlined. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Poll: 'Landslide' for Arafat With Hamas Support

NC1601220096 Paris AFP in English
2136 GMT 16 Jan 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Jerusalem, Jan 16 (AFP)—Yasir 'Arafat will win a landslide 80 percent of the vote in Saturday's [20 January] election of a Palestinian president and self-rule council, boosted by solid backing from supporters of the radical Islamic movement Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], according to a poll released Tuesday.

The survey, carried out by the independent Palestinian research group JMCC for Israeli public television, indicated that 'Arafat would take 80.7 percent in the presidential race against 7.2 percent for his only challenger, West Bank social activist Samihah Khalil. The poll said that 62 percent of those queried who identified themselves as supporters of the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) indicated they would vote for 'Arafat despite Hamas' official boycott of the vote.

Khalil, whose campaign platform is built around opposition to 'Arafat's partial land-for-peace agreements with the Israelis which led to the elections, drew the support of only 16 percent of Hamas sympathizers. When asked earlier in the day at a press conference if he hoped for a landslide victory on Saturday, 'Arafat responded: "I only want 51 percent of the vote."

The television said the survey of 776 Palestinians showed an increase in voter support for Hamas since suspected Israeli agents killed one of the movement's top anti-Israeli guerrilla chiefs, Yahya 'Ayyash, on January 5. But 63 percent of those queried said they disagreed with the Hamas position in favor of a boycott of the elections, with only 17 percent saying they backed the decision.

The television concluded from the poll that the rate of voter abstention in Saturday's election would be below 15 percent.

Al-Za'nun on Elections, Assembly, Autonomy Moves

NC1701074896 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic
0615 GMT 17 Jan 96

[Telephone interview with PNC Chairman Salim al-Za'nun, in Gaza, by Fawzi al-Jundi, in Cairo; date not given; from the "Dialogue From Afar" program—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [al-Jundi] The elections on Palestinian territory on Saturday [20 January] will elect the Palestinian Assembly. Will this assembly be part of the PNC [Palestine National Council] or an extension of it?

[Al-Za'nun] Article 3 of the Election Law, on the basis of which elections will be held, says the elected members of the Assembly will automatically become members of the PNC. This means that this assembly has two functions. The first is to act as the legislative authority for 2.2 million Palestinians living in the territories. It will monitor the performance of the executive authority. A council of ministers will emanate from it. It will also steer developments in every issue in the three-year transitional phase.

As for the second function, the Assembly will be part of the PNC. Together they will examine all the issues concerning the fate of 6.5 million Palestinians inside the territories and abroad. They will handle issues postponed to the final stage, issues such as Jerusalem, the borders, and the refugees.

[Al-Jundi] Will the absence of some Palestinian factions from the elections weaken the Assembly?

[Al-Za'nun] Most Palestinian factions are taking part in the elections, even those that declared they would not take part. There are at least 10 candidates who are members of the Hamas movement and five candidates representing the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine. The reality is different from what these factions announced. The Assembly will, therefore, represent every political line.

[Al-Jundi] Will the PNC hold its first session on Palestinian territory following these elections?

[Al-Za'nun] We are considering a PNC session 20 days after the election of the Assembly. This is not for the sake of the amendment [of the Palestinian Charter], but to fully assess the peaceful march and to study a second PNC session concerning the amendment. This should be a special session.

[Al-Jundi] Do you think these elections are a prologue to an independent Palestinian state?

[Al-Za'nun] We believe that when we are denied the right to autonomy and are then allowed to hold Palestinian elections, this is actually autonomy. Autonomy definitely leads to an independent Palestinian state. The Israeli side uses particular terms in front of the Israeli opposition. They sometimes say they accept something bigger than autonomy and less than an independent state. Eventually, this will lead us to an independent Palestinian state.

[Al-Jundi] Will a new Palestinian cabinet be formed after these elections?

[Al-Za'nun] Yes. As soon as the Palestinian Assembly opens its session in the week following the elections, it

will elect its chairman, two deputies, and two assistants. The elected chairman will then be entrusted with forming a cabinet inside three weeks. Some 80 percent of cabinet members will be selected from within the Assembly and 20 percent from outside. He will then submit his government program to a vote of confidence. If it wins 51 percent of the vote it will become the official cabinet in charge of all issues pertaining to the executive authority.

[Al-Jundi] Thank you for this dialogue.

[Al-Za'nun] Thank you.

Disqualified Votes Reported High in Simulated Voting

TA1701121595 Tel Aviv DAVAR RISHON in Hebrew
17 Jan 96 p 3

[Report by Yosi Torpstein]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Simulated voting conducted recently among Palestinians in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip by a U.S. organization, the International Foundation for Electoral Systems [IFES], resulted in 35 percent disqualified ballots, mainly because the sampled voters were unfamiliar with voting procedures.

The ballots include the names of all the candidates running in a given district. Such simulations have been conducted in all voting districts in order to instruct Palestinians on voting procedures and inform them about who are the candidates running in every district.

Over the past three weeks IFES has been holding simulation workshops in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, and expects to hold 500 workshops by election day. Its activities are conducted in coordination with the Palestinian Central Elections Committee and are funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development. [passage omitted]

A 35-percent disqualification rate might affect the results of the elections. An IFES spokesman explained that for most Palestinians these will be the first democratic general elections, and the voting process is quite complex. According to him, many Palestinians do not understand that it is prohibited to make notes or sign their names on the ballots, and they do not know that they have to register at polling stations, present their identification papers, and what to do with the ballots. He nevertheless assessed that as a result of the guidance provided by IFES to many Palestinians, the number of disqualified ballots on elections day will be lower. [passage omitted]

PLO Terms Set for Changing Charter, Autonomy Accords

NC1601191196 Paris AFP in English
1728 GMT 16 Jan 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Gaza City, Gaza Strip, Jan 16 (AFP)—A senior PLO official set tough terms on Tuesday [16 January] for scrapping calls in the organisation's charter for the destruction of Israel, as agreed in the West Bank autonomy accord.

"First the Palestinian Authority must extend its powers over the whole of the West Bank and all the Palestinian prisoners must be freed," said the acting president of the Palestine National Council (PNC), or parliament-in-exile.

Salim al-Za'nun also told AFP that Israel must allow all PNC members in exile to return to the Palestinian territories.

Under the West Bank deal signed in September, the Palestinian Authority committed itself to amend the PLO charter within two months of self-rule elections which are to take place Saturday.

Israel has warned that the autonomy accords could fall apart unless the Palestinians keep their word on the charter.

Al-Za'nun Comments on Amending National Charter

JN1601204696 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic
1900 GMT 16 Jan 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Salim al-Za'nun, acting speaker of the Palestine National Council [PNC], said amending or canceling some paragraphs of the Palestinian National Charter, as Israel demands, requires extending Palestinian sovereignty over all the territories of the West Bank, releasing all Palestinian female and male prisoners in Israeli jails, and the return of all PNC members as citizens and not visitors.

Al-Za'nun said the PNC will not interfere in the powers granted to the Legislative Assembly. He said the Legislative Assembly will not agree to handle unilaterally the issues that are postponed to the final stage. These include Jerusalem, the settlements, the borders, the refugees, and sovereignty. The final-status negotiations are scheduled to begin next May.

Algeria**Foreign Minister Meets France's Chirac, de Charette**

LD1101202596 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 11 Jan 96

[FBIS Translated Text] According to the Algerian Embassy in France, after attending the funeral of former French President Mitterrand Algerian Foreign Affairs Minister Ahmed Attaf had a tete-a-tete meeting with President Jacques Chirac. He also met French National Assembly Speaker Philippe Seguin.

In the evening, Ahmed Attaf had talks with his French counterpart Herve de Charette. Both sides decided, after having assessed the current situation of bilateral ties, to develop ways of reviving Algerian-French relations.

Further on Meeting

LD1201101396 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 0600 GMT 12 Jan 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Algerian Foreign Minister Ahmed Attaf held talks last night with French Foreign Minister Herve de Charette.

The meeting, which took place at the French Foreign Ministry, was attended by Houcine Djoudi, the Algerian ambassador to France.

Following this meeting, Mr. Ahmed Attaf pointed out that he discussed with his French counterpart aspects of the totality of Algerian-French relations, and that they had agreed on the fact that the present situation of those relations was not the normal one.

The Algerian foreign minister added that the two sides believed that this abnormal situation could be corrected. In order to do that, Mr. Attaf added by saying, we have agreed on some work mechanisms which we intend to implement in the near future.

For his part, the French foreign affairs minister stressed that the two countries had agreed on starting a new page of relations between the two countries which was based on mutual respect, non-interference in internal affairs, and cordiality, friendship, and cooperation.

Herve de Charette added by saying that we were aware of the need to exert all efforts for giving vitalism, content, and warmth to the relations between the two countries.

FIS European Supporters Issue Newsletters**2 Jan Issue**

MS0801144596 Southall! THE ENLIGHTENMENT in English 2 Jan 96

[Newsletter "publicizing the Islamic Struggle in Algeria," published by Islamic Salvation Front "supporters in Europe" — quotation marks as received; received via Internet

[FBIS Transcribed Text]

Gen. Zeroual "micro-steps" policy versus the "fire" high speed! Praise be to Allah.

It is almost two months now since the elections took place in Algeria and the people have been and are still waiting for "something" to happen that may presage better tomorrow, but in vain.

Gen. Zeroual has started to "unfold his cards" slowly to a very attentive "audience" which tries to compensate its impatience resulting from a deplorable situation, by convincing itself that the electoral promises will be kept. As time goes by, the "new" authorities have been getting further and further away from the electoral speech and are spreading a new meaning to the elections outcome. A meaning of victory of those responsible for the military coup of January 1992 against those who opposed it. In the "official" picture, as painted by the ex-Junta prime minister Sifi, the first antagonist is this false and mystified notion of "the State" behind which the "pushiests" having hiding and in the name of which any crime can be unpunished perpetrated. The other part of the conflict have recently "gained" the new "official" appellation of "criminals" in replacement for the old appellation of "terrorists" which seems to have been overused.

Yesterday, a new prime-minister was nominated which will be followed by the formation of a government which is expected to contain few positions for those parties which have agreed to take part in the elections of Gen. Zeroual in sign of appreciation.

Those who have a good idea about how the regime institutions have been working since independence and particularly since the "institutionalisation" of the Prime ministerial post, know that the prerogatives of this latter is depleted from any political decision power. It has always been a "technocratic body" with a mission of concretising policies decided by the army who sets the political orientation. The mere fact of having chosen Mr Ahmed Ouyahia which has an exclusive diplomatic profile, as a Prime minister, may be an indication of a continuity in terms of the political trend. Since

January 92, the regime has been interested in its image vis a vis the "international arena" while it has never seriously shown a political will in solving the Algerian problem by looking at its real roots. The absence of concrete political initiatives was always compensated by "sweet talks" of good intentions aimed at appeasing the international community who was impatient to resume business with Algeria. As time is wasted away while the suffering of Algeria is still going on, the electoral promises seem more and more to obey the same logic.

What the people are really waiting for is an effective rupture with the past and the methods of the past. A rupture which will be reached by putting in place policies that aim at this objective not at "justifying the intolerable military coup of January 92" or "tolerating the criminals with innocent blood in their hands to remain in the military institution which has the name of "the Algerian army".

As long as no serious reshuffling of the military institution is genuinely undertaken, there is no hope for the situation to be solved, or the weapons to "shut up", or the Algerian blood to be spared, or the tears to cease or the necessary "rupture" to show up in the horizon of a new Algeria!

Some new light on the Serkadji Carnage (II)

"The Enlightenment" continues in bringing to its readers testimonies extracted from a relatively recent document from credible sources and which throw some lights on the criminal behaviour of the Junta troops under orders from superiors more criminals than them.

On the 21/02/95, during the holy month of Ramadan the Junta troops have cold bloodily killed more than 200 Islamists prisoners held in Serkadji prison.

The following are extracts from a "preliminary report on the Serkadji carnage which took place on the 21 February 1995" which was compiled with the joint efforts of "The families of the victims of the detained in the Serkadji prison", the "National syndicate of lawyers", the "Committee of constituted lawyers" and "The Algerian league for the defense of Human rights". This final form of the document was dated on the 03 of July 1995.

Testimony No TNo-S-17: The mother of Larachi Telidja.

One Friday, some policemen came to search for my son Boudjemaa. They did not find him and let the message that he should go to see them. On the following Saturday morning, he went to the police station of El Harrach (surete de daïra) there he was told that he should go to the central police station (Algiers) for something of

his concern. There he was kept for a month and ten days. We were without news from him until the day he was spotted by his brother in the Serkadji prison and who informed us. His brother was already prisoner in Serkadji.

When I have heard what has happen in Serkadji I immediately went to see. I have found hundreds of mothers, wives, children and parents of detainees away from the prison which was encircled by paramilitary gendarmes who fire their weapons in air periodically to keep anybody who tried to get closer to ask for a relative.

Each day, morning and evening I went there to ask about my sons but without any result. We will go in small groups of men and women, some to the morgue, some to the cemetery and others to the "justice" department. Each time we were told that they "haven't heard anything". It was until Monday the 27/02/95 as I got home that I found a telegram which says that my son Boudjemaa was dead in a mutiny which took place in Serkadji.

After many solicitations toward the "judiciary" authorities and many inexplicable silences from them concerning the motives of the death, the burial without our presence and more over about the burial of our sons under the indication of "X Algerian", I have finally found the tomb where I was told my son was buried in.

When I visited my son's tomb, I found two women who were at the same tomb. They have received the same notice of burial having the same number.

Testimony No T No-s-18

I am the father of Bouaza Abdelaziz cowardly assassinated by the authorities which in principle were supposed to protect him and to guarantee his safety given that he was in their hands in a State establishment.

What has hurt me most and "burns my pain" as a father, an Algerian citizen and a handicap is that my son has been buried without any consideration and without any courtesy given to anybody dead.

My son has been buried in the most ignoble manner. No indiction has been put in his tomb. When I went to the authorities after endless endeavour, I was given a burial certificate which did not mention the name of my son except by "X Algerian". In the El Alia cemetery I was shown a tomb which had the same number as that in the certificate. This number is 243. But when I went there, I was surprised to find another man who told me that his name was Yakoubi and that his brother Messaoud Yakoubi was buried in that tomb. I went then to the reception office and to my surprise, the officer who just

arrived took a pen and crossed over the number 243 and wrote another number the 238.

When I went the following days to solve this enigma and to find my son's tomb, I found other persons who had their relatives killed in Serkadji in the same situation as mine. I must also precise that my son was assassinated in his right when he was arrested on the 19/10/93 and maintained under torture in the police station of Hussein Dey for forty five days, while we were told that the new laws put the maximum length of detention without charge to twelve days.

Testimony No T N-S-19

I am the father of Cherif Omar and I do not understand about the burial of my son. When I went to Bab-el-Oued I was given a burial certificate having the tomb number 245 and when I went to the El-Alia cemetery to the Tomb numbered 245, somebody else were buried there and when I ask for explanations to the administration, they simply crossed that number and put another (235) without any explanation.

News of Jihad and Mujahidin:

"To those against whom war is made, permission is given (to fight) because they are wronged, and verily, Allah is Most powerful for their aid" [Koran, Surat Al Hajj, 22:39]

The Junta has these past days been persistent in its old habit of terrorising the population by increasing mass arrests and murdering innocent people which are then presented as "criminals" which is the new term to describe the glorious Mujahidin who are "selling their lives cheap" for the sake of Allah and so that the Algerian people, all the Algerian people can live on their feet instead of being forced to cower by demagogues who have the criminal urge of playing gods on earth. Jihad operations! "we don't like to" beat around the bush", we prefer clarity and frankness even if it means to be hanged for what we believe to be a duty and a right. The struggle against the regime of the military junta has become a legitimate and lawful duty as demonstrated previously, in order to "grab" the right of the people to freely choose. "[Shaykh Abu Abdelfatah ALI BELHADJ in "Fasl el kalam fi mouajahate dolm el hokam" ("The conclusive criterion in confronting injustice from the rulers"), page 303. Book written from cell No 09 in the Blida Military jail. 1992 Echarfa: The Mujahidin have set up a road cross in the motorway going to the city of Oran. An armed militia has been seriously wounded and was taken to the hospital of Chlef. Chlef: The Mujahadan have set up an ambush to a Junta patrol. Two Junta soldiers were killed one having the rank of captain and the other of adjutant.

Hay El Houria (Chlef): The Mujahidin have set up an ambush to a junta patrol. Two Junta soldiers were killed of which one of them having the rank of commander and two were wounded and taken by plane to the military hospital of Ain Anadja. Oued Sly: An armed militia man was killed in route No 4. In the same locality another armed militia man was also killed two days before. Boukadir: A big battle took place between the Junta soldiers and the Mujahidin of the Islamic Salvation Army (AIS). 10 Junta soldiers were killed and 11 wounded. In the Mujahidin ranks, 8 brothers and two civilians have won martyrdom insha Allah. Achatia: Two armed militia were killed. In the same locality, and as a collective punishment, the Junta has shut down the water, gas and electricity supply to that locality. According to Mujahidin sources, the Mujahidin of the AIS have couplet freedom in those areas. Bousaada: In a crossfire between the Mujahidin and a junta patrol, three brothers have won Martyrdom insha Allah and three Junta soldiers has been killed. Dar El Baida: A crossfire took [place between the Junta soldiers and... the Junta soldiers in one of the Junta barracks. Lakhdaria: An armed junta militia was killed and his weapon collected. A roadblock was set up by the Mujahidin in the road to Zbarbar. Blida: The Mujahidin have set up an ambush to a Junta military vehicles in the road to Chrea. Five Junta soldiers (red berets) were killed. Four weapons were collected. In another operation in the same town but in the locality called "Terre rouge", a junta officer having the rank of lieutenant was killed. El Harrach: A Junta police officer was killed in "Cite Beaulieu", his weapon was collected. Casbah: The Mujahidin are still very active in this town despite the concentration of the Junta troops. In an operation a Junta secret police officer was killed and his weapon and a small transmission equipment were collected from him. Using the small device, the Mujahidin entered in contact with the Junta troops and asked them to leave the rank of darkness and to repent to Allah from their crimes. In another operation a Junta officer from the "special force" was killed and his weapon. In another operation a Junta officer working was killed and his weapon (A Berretta) was collected. Belcourt: The Mujahadan have executed an operation in Nacera Nounou street aimed at a Junta officer in the secret police. His weapon was collected. In another operation a Junta torturer who works in the torture centre of chateau neuf was executed and his weapon collected.

9 Jan Issue

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[Newsletter "publicizing the Islamic Struggle in Algeria," published Islamic Salvation Front "supporters in

Europe" — quotation marks as received; received via Internet

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Editorial —

Dragging Algeria of 1996 back to the seventies!

Praise be to Allah,

In Algeria, the political intentions of the regime are becoming more and more clear as each day passes and the elections of the 16/11/95 go further in the past.

These past few days, new signs are all converging toward the fact that the regime is moving toward "organising" local and legislative elections. So far so good some may say, Algeria is entering a democratisation process!! Unfortunately it is not in the habit of the dictatorship in Algeria to offer gifts to the Algerian people and in the near future this statement can be tested when the answer to the question of "will Gen. Zeroual "fabricate" a political party or not?" is known.

Despite declarations discrediting officially the idea of Gen. Zeroual forming a political party, signs and the logic of how the dictatorship moves are all pointing in the opposite direction. Gen. Zeroual is going to "win the elections" as it has won the previous ones otherwise there will be no need for elections as far as the dictatorship is concerned. Remember, the dictatorship is here to prove that it can make the Algerian people vote in what ever way it wants. This is the dictatorship argument that "bad popular choices" do exist and that "it is legitimate" to suppress them by military tanks if necessary. In the dictatorship "logic", military coup d'Etat are to be glorified and that of January 1992 is to be "banalised" and decriminalised no matter the situation it has generated.

Three important indications confirm the machiavellic political intentions of the dictatorship in "fabricating" a political party to win the local and legislative elections:

— Gen. Zeroual was accused of not having a distinct ideology or a well defined political program that could argument the idea of adding to the political map of Algeria, a party which comes to satisfy a popular "political demand". After just two or three weeks in hibernation with his staff, Gen. Zeroual came with what the regime monopolistic media is calling "Zeroual very detailed program" which was presented few days ago to the new government. So this "program" or rather mediocre "manifesto" full of demagoguery, contradictions and even nonsense, will constitute the "political platform" of the "fabricated party". The permutation between Mr Siffi the Gen. Zeroual prime minister with Mr Ouyahia the Gen. Zeroual chief of staff militates for the argument. Now Mr Siffi who has been given the title of "minister

of State", is working where Mr Ouyahia used to work that is "the presidency" where all Gen. Zeroual manoeuvres has been designed. The role of Siffi is closely if not exclusively related to the formation of "Gen. Zeroual Party" (called the GZP hereafter!) and preparing the "right conditions for the right elections results".

In search of a suitable ideological cover, the GZP is adopting formal [as published] president of Algeria, Colonel Houari Boumedien as its "mascot". Praise be to Allah that Algerians are muslims otherwise the propaganda machine of the regime would not have hesitated in announcing that Gen. Zeroual is in fact a living reincarnation of Boumedien. Allusions and suggestions of the two personages being identical are being broadcasted on an almost daily basis. Taking advantage of the tight control on the media, some elements of the regime propaganda paratus do not hesitate to describe the recently known Gen. Zeroual as the father of the Algerian nation. A new historical line of Algeria most important head of state seems to emerge from the GZP which consists of Massinessa, Emir Abdelkader, Houari Boumedien and now Gen. Zeroual.

— An interesting point about Gen. Zeroual new government is the formation of a secretariat of state for the Algerian community overseas. The new prime minister Mr Ouyahia has shown the importance his government will be giving to actions towards the Algerian community overseas, by choosing this issue to be the first he talked about in the media after his first meeting with his team. What is it really? It is the reincarnation of Boumedien era, the "recreation" of "L'Amical des Algeriens en Europe" (Algerian friendship in Europe) only this time there is also opposition voices in America, Australia, Canada. The proper denomination of the GZP representation overseas which expenses will be paid by the "Algerian state", will surely have a broader geographical confinement. The coming overseas organisation of the GZP is to counter the opposition voice in a space where freedom of speech do exist to some extend. Mr Ouyahia in a public declaration made on Tuesday 09/01/96 has already qualify the authors of those voices as "they have nothing of Algerian". There is not enough space to answer this "dictator-aid" who in few days seems to have stolen for himself the right to declare who should be Algerian and who should not. This type of "yes-sir valets" are indeed in the wrong place to question the "Algerianity" of the opposition...relatively speaking that is!

The dictatorship blindness seems to persist in dragging Algerians of 1996 back to Algeria of the seventies without consideration for the price of oil and gas, nor of the volume of foreign debt, nor of what the Algerian people have learn from the political experience of last

three decades, nor of the irreversible development and democratisation of communication technology, nor of...

The catastrophic effects of dictatorship on the economy of Algeria!

During the end period of the 1954-62 Algerian war and as preliminary contacts in view of negotiations begun between the Algerians and the French, the question of the Algerian sovereignty over the richest part of the country, i.e. the Sahara, was the crucial issue. Some of the oil and gas reserves have already been discovered and predictions were very optimistic. The fact that the Algerians negotiators were uncompromising on the principle of the Algeria sovereignty over its Sahara, has caused the war to be extended in time and more of the Algerian blood to be shed for that cause.

When Algeria won its independence in 1962, forecasts were wildly spread about her becoming the "Japan of Africa" in a short time. This accepted believe was based on its energetic resources as well as an economical infrastructure based mainly on agriculture and medium and small enterprises which put Algeria of 1962 at about the same level of the then Spain.

Then came the dictatorship of the worst kind!

A dictatorship which thinks it is an expert in everything and can show the world how the "economy of Algeria will lift up". While people were "looking to the sky" to see "the rocket takes off", the economy of Algeria was getting "deeper and deeper into the sand" despite periods where the barrel of oil reached 40 of the nineteen seventies US dollars.

What were the causes?

The most important cause of the disaster and the killing of the dream and aspirations of the Algeria people was surely the elimination of any serious opposition that would have played the "internal mirror" against which the "authorities" would have seen their mistakes as well as learned the existence of other alternatives. This kind of feedback would have been vitally useful for the country but would have needed freedom of expression which is known to be deadly fatal to the dictatorship as it will be facing a more "informed" and "enlightened" population.

The first sign of opposition to the process of dictatorship was expressed by the resignation of the president of the Algerian new parliament a year after the independence. This historical personage by the name of Ferhat Abbas was being convinced by what he called "the young wolfs" (les jeunes loups), that the role of a parliament was not to criticise the "government" decisions or to propose new laws. For them the role of the parliament

is to "applause" and be "a resonance box" to amplify the "authorities" propaganda. Ferhat Abbas was "expelled from the History of Algeria" by the dictatorship which has "nationalised the Algerian museum" also. Almost thirty years latter, the dictatorship decided to give Ferhat Abbas a place in the "museum" as the old man had a year left in his life. He was not the only historical personage whom the dictatorship has "robed from his/her historicity" or have been replaced by people who belonged to the other side of the conflict. Krim Belkacem, the first minister of defence of Algeria during the war has been rehabilitated just recently after being assassinated by the dictatorship in Frankfurt, Germany.

Going back to the effect of the dictatorship on Algeria economy disaster, one can only make the following constatation:

— It is the dictatorship who have unilaterally i.e. without the people (or their true and freely chosen representative) consent, chosen an economical system called "socialism" which was in fact a hybrid combination of imported models. This model started by "killing" what worked in terms of agriculture and small and medium industry.

— It is the dictatorship who claimed that the "Algerian revolution" was "a socialist revolution" meaning that the Algerian martyrs have chosen to die for socialism.

— It is the dictatorship who unilaterally decided to follow not only the "socialism" but more specifically the "soviet type of socialism". A type of socialism that is based on "developing the industry" detrimentally to the agriculture sector. This was the prelude to today situation where more than 85 percent of the Algeria food are imported while in 1962 it was a net exporter.

— It is the dictatorship unilateral decision to chose the model of "industrialising industry" (industrie industrialisante) of the French economist De Bernis. This economy fiasco did not generate any industry but has "eaten" large finance resources in constructing huge prestigious "factories" that became "museums" for foreign delegations to visit and are today put for sale under the process of privatisation. The construction of prestigious "biggest, best, unique in the continent or the world..." factories had its complement in terms of huge capital evasion through organised corruption.

— It is the dictatorship which have unilaterally decided to consume what was left in reserves from the \$40/ barrel period to import "gadgets" to the Algerian people to "play with" as a process to enhance the image of the new leader (Chadli Bendjedid) and to prepare them for the dictatorship U-turn from socialism to capitalism.

— It is the dictatorship which unilaterally decided to enter in the "spiral" of borrowing money in the name of the Algerian people from internationale institutions.

— It is the dictatorship which unilaterally decided to raise the borrowing up to the level where 85-90 percent of Algeria income will be spend each year to pay back the debt and its services.

— It is the dictatorship which has unilaterally decided to "reschedule" the payment of Algeria debt which means that in very few coming years Algeria will have to pay more than it is paying now.

— The dictatorship has tied up Algeria and itself with international financial institutions such as the FMI [expansion unknown]. Now because of its own make, the dictatorship is not as free as it used to be.

Today it has to apply an economical program which broad orientations are dictated by those who have landed the money to "Algeria of the dictatorship". However the dictatorship still have the freedom of decision concerning "how" to implement the FMI and Co economical plan. The dictatorship is still taking unilateral decision on that as usual. The incompetent dictatorship does not see any other alternative than massive "lay out" of workers, it does not see any other alternative to selling to the nomenklatura the "Algerian collective wealth", it does not see any other alternative than to withdraw the "state" responsibility in providing certain vital services and aid to the people. Algeria is undergoing a process of "savage privatisation" as it underwent the "savage nationalisation of Algerian private properties" before. The beneficiaries are always the same cast of people called "the Nomenklatura"!

So the dictatorship of this kind can do anything and the apposite few years latter. It also cultivates the "cult of dictatorship" in the Algerian mentality. Algerians are being asked to glorify past dictators. Each new team comes to justify acts and murders of previous teams of the same dictatorship. One can never found a new team accusing irrevocably previous ones by naming those who have done mischiefs except through allusions as if vaguely saying "it is not us it is them" while "US" is really "THEM" in another costume to deceive the people.

The plan of implementing the FMI economical directives has been drawn unilaterally by the dictatorship. The present and future energy resources are being sold under conditions known only to the dictatorship and accepted by it.

Since independence all yearly budgets for example, have been decided by the dictatorship without a say from the Algerian people through their freely chosen representa-

tive. The first time the Algerian people were about to participate in managing their country's economy, was when they have freely elected their representative in December 1991 but the dictatorship would not allow it even if it meant five years of war and tens of thousands dead.

The dictatorship has not reacted so ferociously because of the specificities of the FIS which has won the elections of december 91. The dictatorship will fight any movement able to mobilise a considerable part of the Algerian people. What is a bit sad is that some Algerian intellectuals, without being in the system still believe that the ideological or political difference they may have with the FIS is more important than the difference between the Algerian people and the dictatorship. Some have been easily drawn to the camp of the dictatorship fighting a movement which has more chances in eradicating the dictatorship than any movement before since the FFS [Socialist Forces Front] uprising in 1963.

Any economical take off in Algeria is strongly related to the effective dismantling of the dictatorship so that twenty millions of Algerian brains or so can start to think and come up with workable solutions to the now very complex problems of Algeria. The monopoly of decision in the hand of the very few has never brought solutions to the Algerian people everyday problems on the contrary. These past few weeks the "authorities" have pretended to have achieved "miracles" according to their own statistics. Finally and incidently even how to measure the economy is being controlled by the dictatorship lately. Only "statistics" that are normalised by the dictatorship are to be considered when describing the state of the economy.

Seriouse and deep analysis of the Algerian state of the economy all converge to the same conclusion: the root of the problem is political. Five prime ministers in the past four years is a good illustration of this fact!

The Algerian regime schizophrenic behaviour: Angelic speech and barbaric actions!

The regime propaganda and in particular the "psychological war" it is launching and which is targeting three audiences: the international investment and loan providers community, the Algerian political class member of the national contract and which the regime is trying to drag to the elections under its own conditions nevertheless in need of them more than them of it, and finally those who have joined the Mujahedeen for other reasons than Jihad in the sake of Allah such as secret police agents whose missions has come to an end on the 16/11/95, those after war booty, personal revenge etc...

The regime propaganda machine is using everything it can including religion in its most distorted form in trying to convince some of those in the Mujahedeen ranks to surrender under what the "Pharaohs" of today call "the law of mercy" and thus pretending to have what is in the hand of Allah only. In one broadcasted propaganda message, a true saying of the prophet Mohammed (p.b.u.h) is interpreted wrongly. The saying talks about the fact that the Ummah (in its broad sense) can not all agree on something that is astray from the right path (dhalalah). The propaganda machine interpreted it as: since the Algerian people have agreed (...) on Gen. Zeroual elections they must be right and the thing is also right (and suggestively, the coming of Gen. Zeroual is divine!). But according to the regime's own "arithmetics", there were 75 percent of the voters and Gen. Zeroual "was elected" with 62 percent of votes. That is Gen. Zeroual had $(0.75 * 0.62 = 0.465)$, 46.5 percent of votes out of 100 percent of people eligible to vote. This is according to the "official" figures. The Ummah did not all agree with Gen. Zeroual.

In terms of speech, the regime has find itself an angelic costume, but how about its behaviour?

It is as usual barbaric! For example and exactly two weeks ago (26/12/95), there were a big battle in the Dahra mountains in which sixty junta soldiers were killed and eight brothers from the Islamic Salvation Army (AIS) won Martyrdom (Insha Allah). Among the eight brothers, there were brother "Lahbib" (may Allah accept him as Martyr) who was a dentist by profession working in the city of Mazouna. The Junta army took his slaughtered head and exhibited it in all the streets of the city of Mazouna to terrorise the population. How "mercy for the living" can be expected from those who have no "mercy for the deads".

Another story of the regime "mercy" is the case of the FIS leader shaykh Abdelkader Hachani who has been in detention in the hight security prison of Serkadji without any charge or trial. He has been maintained in separate isolated prison cell these past four years. Last week, his family was told that there will be no more visits. The Junta has asked Hachani to sign a declaration if he wanted to be free. The shaykh refused because according to some sources the document contain a clause forbidding the Shaykh to mention the name of the FIS in public. What mercy have they got those who do not fear the Merciful when in the day of Judgement they will be asked why have they taken freedom even for an hour from the man who was created by Allah free. The killing of more than fifty thousand lives of which those responsible for the act of January 1992 will have to answer in that Big Day is another story that only Allah knows its outcome.

The Mujahedeen of the second region have issued a communique dated on the fifth of January 96 and signed by Shaykh Ayoub by delegation from the Western regions commander Shaykh Ahmed Benaicha and which answer the "psychological war" based mainly on lies. "The Enlightenment" will come back to it in the future Insha Allah.

Egypt

Mubarak Phones Syria's al-Asad on Peace, Gore Visit

NC1601062096 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0500 GMT 16 Jan 96

[FBIS Translated Text] President Muhammad Husni Mubarak telephoned Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad last night. They exchanged views on the peace process on both the Syrian and Lebanese tracks, the ongoing talks and contacts on this issue with all the parties, and the discussions between President Mubarak and U.S. Vice President Al Gore on the same issue.

Musa Comments on Peace Process, Arab Ties

MM1601150596 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 13 Jan 96 p 8

[Interview with Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa by Dafni Barak in Cairo; date not given — first paragraph in AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT introduction]

[FBIS Translated Text] The interview with 'Amr Musa began with a question about the current situation in relation to the Syrian-Israeli negotiation track. That question was asked in view of the interest attached by all Arab and international circles to that matter. 'Amr Musa replied: We are still at the beginning. True, we have heard some things that call for optimism but to what extent should we be optimistic? The answer to that question will become clear after U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's visit to the region. I think we will know the exact situation in the very near future.

[Barak] Do you believe that the assassination of former Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin helped in speeding up the peace process between Syria and Israel?

[Musa] I do not believe that the assassination was the cause. It might have indirectly contributed to the present situation. Observing the current situation, we can see that the current Prime Minister Shim'on Peres is playing an effective part and leading the negotiation process in a way that is different from that of his predecessor Rabin. Peres is aware of the sensitivity of the Syrian issue, and his approach to, management of, and contribution to the negotiations are seen as very effective and successful.

something which Rabin might not have achieved had he had that task. The situation is now different from what it was in the past. The effective and significant factor in the progress of the negotiations is not Rabin's assassination but Peres' assumption of power and his management of the negotiations.

[Barak] Rabin was the victim of an assassination. Before him Egyptian President Anwar al-Sadat was killed and there was an assassination attempt on President Mubarak some months ago. Do you fear assassination?

[Musa] I am not afraid. Why should I be afraid? You yourself travel a lot and meet with heads of states and governments and leaders. Are you afraid?

[Barak] But I believe in fate.

[Musa] And so do I. At present we are facing some critical conditions. An atmosphere of terrorism prevails in the region but I am certain we will defeat. People are now trying to strike some kind of balance between all aspects of life. They want to live a calmer and more stable life. Generally speaking, I believe in fate, just like you. I might have reached this post to play a certain role or carry out a certain task that I am destined to carry out.

[Barak] Do you believe that the assassination of "the engineer" [Yahya Ayyash] is in the interest of peace or will it have an adverse effect on it?

[Musa] I do not believe that assassinations lead to anything positive. Assassinations only lead to more assassinations. It has transpired that Mosad, the Israeli intelligence service, was behind the recent assassination. That was an extreme embarrassment for President Arafat. The question is: Why should the Palestinian side be embarrassed? Of the two sides, who is in the more sensitive position?

[Barak] Could you explain the Saudi contribution to the current negotiations and peace process?

[Musa] Everyone has participated in the process in one way or another. What I mean is that all the important regional forces have effectively and positively contributed to the peace process. All parties want substantial, rapid progress. For our part, we support the Syrian demands. One thing in return for another. Comprehensive peace should be in return for full withdrawal of the Israeli forces from the Golan. It is now clear that Israel will withdraw from the Golan.

The Saudis pay special attention to the issue of Jerusalem. To them it is crucial. To the Saudis, peace [as published] is an important step toward comprehensive peace in the region. The Saudi side believes that the solution to the entire problem lies in the settlement

of the Palestinian question. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is following the situation closely.

[Barak] There was an attempt to assassinate President Mubarak. What would happen if Mubarak were assassinated, God forbid?

[Musa] The constitution determines what happens. It is clear on everything.

[Barak] There is no Egyptian figure whom we could say international circles are familiar with.

[Musa] The question of familiarity is a matter which concerns the Egyptian people. If that happens, it would be an Egyptian problem, not a problem for the international community.

[Barak] What is your concept of a solution for the Jerusalem issue? Do you have a scenario for such a solution?

[Musa] All I can say is that the Jerusalem problem can be solved, and I wish to emphasize here that we are constantly thinking about a solution for it. We are continuously trying to search for possible solutions and scenarios for a settlement. But, generally speaking, I am still not ready to talk about that aspect at the present time.

[Barak] But you are unofficially discussing the Jerusalem issue with others.

[Musa] That is true. The unofficial discussions on Jerusalem began a long time ago. The official discussions on it are expected to begin in May. We can say here that we will succeed in solving it. We have so far succeeded in building the necessary trust to create common ground when the negotiations on the issue begin. One of the most important points now is taking into consideration the fact that future peaceful coexistence is what we seek to emphasize from now on.

[Barak] The issue of coexistence reminds me of the labels given to some of the peace agreements in the region. We are getting used to hearing the phrase "warm peace" when peace with Jordan and the Palestinians is mentioned, while some speak of "cold peace" when referring to the peace agreement between Egypt and Israel.

[Musa] I believe that these labels are given by people who see a difference between the form of relations between Jordan and Israel and between Egypt and Israel. And that is true because there is a difference between the two sets of relations. The "warm" relations between Jordan and Israel are no different from relations between Cairo and Tel Aviv but there is continuous talk about "normalization." I believe that this [current situation] is

normalization because there are normal relations. There are also crises and problems including the Palestinian problem. We continue our efforts and attempts to face and solve these problems and difficulties.

[Barak] Do you support the continuation of economic sanctions and embargo against Iraq?

[Musa] An embargo that is imposed on an entire people cannot lead to a final solution. I believe that the time will come when we will have to lift the sanctions when Iraq complies with the UN resolutions. As to when that would happen, I cannot speculate.

[Barak] Are there any backstage diplomatic efforts to end the economic sanctions and lift the embargo imposed on Iraq?

[Musa] When the Iraqis want to talk we listen well to them. We meet with their government's representatives at the Arab League and we meet with their representatives at the United Nations but so far there has been no progress or development in relation to that aspect.

[Barak] Egypt has been differentiating between Iraq and Libya in connection with the international sanctions imposed on each. Although President Mubarak has spoken of changes in the position of Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhafi, the international community sees none of that. What is your comment?

[Musa] Col. al-Qadhafi is today quite different from the Col. al-Qadhafi of old. He has expressed willingness to hand over the suspects in the case of the PAN AM plane blown up over Lockerbie in Scotland for trial in a third country. Is that not a major change in al-Qadhafi's position? That is why Mubarak underscored the changes in the Libyan leader's position.

[Barak] But the world does not seem to be about to change its attitude towards al-Qadhafi.

[Musa] I firmly believe that in 1996 the world will listen to what al-Qadhafi says, and I expect that to happen soon.

[Barak] Were you surprised upon hearing that the Turkish Welfare Party won a majority in the recent parliamentary elections in Turkey?

[Musa] I was not surprised because what occurred reflected the prevailing atmosphere there. We had been following events there and expected the Islamic party to emerge stronger. That is why I could not fully absorb the moves of former Prime Minister Ciller. Ataturk created a secular Turkish state. The years passed and the Turkish people returned to their Islamic roots.

[Barak] To what extent will the new situation there affect relations between Egypt and Turkey?

[Musa] I do not believe that the new situation will affect Egyptian-Turkish relations because the two countries enjoy historic excellent relations. Turkey has a prominent and important place in the Middle East. Each side undoubtedly seeks to take its own proper place.

[Barak] As you are engaged in numerous efforts which require continuous nonstop activity on your part, do you have any wishes?

[Musa] Yes, all I want is a vacation for four or five days on an Egyptian beach. I have had many strenuous tasks over the past five years.

[Barak] I believe that your reaching the top of the diplomatic pyramid early is due to the fact that you are not seen to have a military background. How do you view the future?

[Musa] Perhaps I will turn to another field, other than politics.

[Barak] What were the most exciting moments of your life as foreign minister?

[Musa] The most exciting moments of my life as foreign minister were actually the hours preceding the signing by the Israeli and Palestinian sides of the peace agreement on 4 May 1994. It was clear that the two sides needed a third party in order to be able to proceed with the peace process. The Israeli side was intransigent and the Palestinian side was not ready. We sat down until 0300 and the negotiations were really strenuous with many obstacles which we succeeded in overcoming.

[Barak] Who was the person with whom you developed special relations during the negotiation process?

[Musa] Of the Arabs? That would be a problem for me. On the Israeli side, special friendship developed between me and Peres. The man has many ideas and he would shower you with ideas and solutions. I am comfortable with him. On the Arab side there is one person

[Barak] Peres recently said that he was willing to give up Israel's nuclear power in return for peace. Do you believe that that is a decisive condition for peace in the Middle East?

[Musa] Yes, I believe that it is impossible to establish peace without nuclear disarmament. We talked about that issue over a long period of time. The only party which objected to that was the Israelis. Now the situation is different because the Israeli step mentioned will surely lead to a final peace.

Israeli military superiority was the cause of Israel's erroneous decisions.

[Barak] Is a summit meeting between Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and Peres expected in the course of this current year?

[Musa] That would mainly depend on Israel's willingness to give up certain things. The Americans are fond of summit meetings which they see as sensational material for the media. The Syrians do not believe in personal diplomacy and bilateral meetings, and they cannot understand the Israeli obstinacy.

[Barak] Do you see the rise of the right-wing trend in Israel after Rabin's assassination as a victory for the peace process or an obstacle in its way?

[Musa] If the rise of the right-wing trend in Israel led to peace in the region then that would be an advantage for peace. We should not forget that Egypt signed a peace agreement with a right-wing Israeli Government led by Menahem Begin, the then leader of the Likud Party which is now led by Binyamin Netanyahu.

Defense Minister Meets U.S. Military Delegation

NC1601172396 Cairo MENA in English
1457 GMT 16 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cairo, Jan 16 (MENA) — Defense Minister Field Marshal Husayn Tantawi today met with the U.S. Chief of Staff, currently visiting here, with his accompanying delegation. The meeting then was followed by a round of military talks under the co-chairmanship of Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Majdi Hatatah and his American counterpart.

Talks dealt with ways to open new vistas for bilateral cooperation in military fields for the best interests of the two countries' Armed Forces. The talks were attended by a number of high-ranking officers from the two countries.

Commentary on U.S. Vice President Gore Visit

'Special Importance' Analyzed

NC1401110096 Cairo MENA in Arabic
0910 GMT 14 Jan 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 14 Jan (MENA) — U.S. Vice President Al Gore's visit to Cairo tomorrow, Monday, is of particular importance because it aims to bolster and develop economic and trade relations between Egypt and the United States within the framework of the new bilateral partnership.

Talks between President Mubarak and Vice President Gore will deal with bilateral relations, developments in the Middle East peace process, and the means of strengthening bilateral economic relations.

President Mubarak and Vice President Gore will also attend the meetings of the Egyptian-U.S. Presidential Council, which will discuss ways of encouraging U.S. investment in Egypt, transferring modern technology, and increasing bilateral trade. The meeting aims to initiate a new stage in the Mubarak-Gore initiative on economic partnership, which was approved in 1994.

Gore's visit to Cairo clearly reflects U.S. interest accelerating the implementation of the cooperation agreement included in the initiative and turning it into an action program that both Egypt and the United States would like to see be the main avenue for cooperation in future.

The main committee and subcommittees charged with implementing the Mubarak-Gore initiative will submit important reports on their work to President Mubarak and Vice President Gore. The reports will deal with ways of giving impetus to the cooperation process between Egypt and the United States in the economic, investment, scientific, technological, and educational fields.

The proposals prepared by the joint Presidential Council's committees, which include 30 businessmen and representatives of Egyptian and U.S. firms, will also be presented to President Mubarak and Vice President Gore.

These proposals focus on three main areas:

1. Defining the future concept of bilateral economic relations, encouraging Egyptian exports to the U.S. market, and increasing U.S. investments in Egypt.
2. The role of the Egyptian-U.S. partnership in strengthening and supporting economic reforms, above all various aspects of financial and monetary reform, the infrastructure projects, and the definition of Egyptian needs in these fields, as well as possible U.S. support and backing.
3. The third area concentrates on presenting a complete concept of the sectors that should be studied in detail on the Egyptian side in order to gain positive results so Egypt can attract more foreign investments on a scale commensurate with its ambitions for development and rapid growth.

According to the conclusions of the joint Presidential Council's committees, practical steps are expected to involve the private sectors of both countries in Egypt's infrastructure projects, especially in the fields of energy, electricity, highway construction, and the free zones.

The participation of the Egyptian private sector in the infrastructure projects is regarded as a major and

important turning point in Egypt's economic policy that will have many positive results, the most important of which is a reduction in the government's heavy financial burden for the infrastructure, thus providing huge sums for the state budget that the government can direct toward other fields.

The joint Council has specified the scope of Egyptian-U.S. cooperation. This involves three plans including 30 projects costing \$150 million. The Egyptian and U.S. private sectors will run these projects; in addition, private societies will participate in developing mechanisms for private cooperation.

The Egyptian-U.S. partnership aims to give impetus to economic growth, provide job opportunities, increase the private sector's role, and to support economic reforms. This will add to the contributions of the U.S. aid program to Egypt and will transform Egyptian-U.S. relations from one of aid donor-recipient into an equal relationship.

The Mubarak-Gore initiative focuses on three main fields. The first is economic. This involves encouraging investments and stresses the two countries' commitment to and understanding of the private sector's role in economic growth and the need to expand projects to include several spheres. Economic cooperation also involves discussing the best ways of utilizing the annual U.S. aid to Egypt. The second field concerns the transfer of modern technology and the development of its uses and applications. The third field involves cooperation in the field of human development. Egypt and the United States recently agreed to add this field to their partnership program.

In order to implement the Egyptian-U.S. initiative, a joint committee was formed to discuss the programs of scientific and economic cooperation. Four subcommittees were formed from this committee. The first one specializes in economic and investment affairs, the second in the transfer of technology and development, the third in environmental affairs, and the fourth in human development and education.

Observers stress that the formation of the Egyptian-U.S. committee at this level underlines the importance the U.S. Administration gives to bolstering economic cooperation with Egypt in view of the latter's unique and pioneering role in economic development in the Middle East within the framework of the comprehensive peace that is expected to prevail in the region.

In view of the private sector's important role in economic growth and in developing bilateral cooperation, a Businessmen's Council was established in each country to give economic advice to the U.S. and Egyptian

leaderships and to act as an arbitrator in any disputes that might arise between companies and businessmen in the two countries.

The Mubarak-Gore initiative serves to encourage U.S. investments during the next stage, promote trade cooperation between the two countries, and provide opportunities for Egyptian products to enter the U.S. market.

U.S. investments in Egypt by the end of 1994 amounted to \$1.347 billion. This includes \$1.1 billion in the petroleum sector alone. Egypt looks forward to drawing up new plans to attract U.S. investments by means of joint ventures. New U.S. companies entered the investment market in Egypt recently, hence benefiting from the opportunities provided by the economic aid program to Egypt, amounting to \$815 million annually.

U.S. investors have shown great interest in investing in the infrastructure in Egypt and in participating in joint projects with the Egyptian private sector. James Brington [name as transliterated], head of the U.S. side of the Egyptian-U.S. Presidential Council, has asserted that Egypt has become the most important country in the world for U.S. companies. He pointed out that the tremendous achievements in rectifying the financial and structural imbalances in Egypt's economy have made it one of the most attractive countries for investment.

The Mubarak-Gore initiative represents a new channel for economic cooperation between Egypt and the United States. It does not, however, represent an alternative to the U.S. aid program to Egypt. The U.S. Administration is fully convinced it should continue its aid to Egypt in the same amount in view of its major and important role in establishing stability and peace in the Middle East and in view of the progress it has made in economic reforms.

A U.S. Agency for International Development report says that Egypt is the second largest recipient of U.S. aid outside the West. U.S. Ambassador in Cairo Edward Walker has stressed that the U.S. aid to Egypt will not change this year, adding that the objective of the Egyptian-U.S. partnership is to boost Egypt's development rate to eight or nine percent so that there will be no need for the U.S. aid in future.

The ambassador pointed out that in the next two years the partnership agreement will be a strong factor in increasing production in Egypt. He added that according to the partnership program, Egypt will receive \$200 million annually for the next three years through the commodity program.

The Mubarak-Gore initiative encourages trade cooperation between Egypt and the United States and provides opportunities for Egyptian products to enter the

U.S. market. Trade between the two countries has made great progress; the United States became Egypt's principal trade partner in 1994. Although Egyptian exports to the United States increased by 20 percent in 1994 to \$612 million from \$434 million in 1993, Egypt is still ranked 59th among the countries exporting to the United States, however, there are great prospects for increasing Egyptian exports to the United States in the chemical, technical, clothing, and textile fields as well as in gold artifacts.

It should be recalled that President Mubarak and U.S. Vice President Al Gore signed the initiative in March 1995. This initiative represents an important qualitative step in bilateral economic relations. The Egyptian economy has reached a stage of maturity requiring wider cooperation with the outside world that goes beyond loans and aid.

Papers on Mubarak-Gore Meeting

NC1501075296 *Cairo MENA in Arabic*
0615 GMT 15 Jan 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 15 Jan (MENA) — AL-AHRAM and AL-JUMHURIYAH state that today's meeting between President Husni Mubarak and U.S. Vice President Al Gore reflects the results of the firm ties between the world's strongest power and a state that has a leading role in a vital region.

In its editorial today, AL-AHRAM praises a statement by the U.S. State Department undersecretary that Egypt is a leading state in the Middle East and that it is also seeking to be a leading state in the economic sphere.

The paper says the U.S. official knows Egypt has the resources to expand its economic role, because Egypt is the largest market in the region and has a unique position linking North Africa and the Middle East. Its new government, the paper adds, is interested in economic development and transforming Egypt into an exporting and investment-attracting country.

AL-AHRAM notes that these goals form the core of Egypt's national agenda, not only because these goals realize the Egyptian citizen's needs, but also because they shift the relationship between Egypt and the major powers from a donor-recipient one to a relationship of partners.

In its editorial, AL-JUMHURIYAH emphasizes that with continuous diplomatic and political efforts Egypt attained high standing among the American people and the U.S. Administration without compromising its principles and values.

The paper remarks that if politics are closely linked with economics, the Egyptian-U.S. partnership is an in-

tegrated experiment relating to every aspect of the international community. The United States, the paper adds, is concerned about expanding Egypt's economic role, making its economic reforms a success, and stimulating the private sector's responsibilities and investments.

AL-JUMHURIYAH notes that this concern coincides with the Egyptian Government's intense activity to enter the 21st century, host the world economic summit, and establish a regional development bank. The paper says the recent success achieved by the Egyptian economy forms a basis for the desired prospects for Egyptian-U.S. ties.

Papers Note Impact of Visit

NC1601101696 *Cairo MENA in Arabic*
0735 GMT 16 Jan 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 16 Jan, (MENA) — In their main headlines and front page stories today, the Cairo papers focus on the intense meetings involving President Husni Mubarak, U.S. Vice President Al Gore, and U.S. members of the Council of Presidents.

The papers highlight President Mubarak's statement that the transfer of technology to Egypt is the essence of partnership with the United States. They also refer to Egyptian-U.S. cooperation to set up a free zone for export-oriented production and measures to protect new industries.

Commenting on Gore's visit, AL-JUMHURIYAH says it marks the beginning of broad cooperation between Egypt and the United States in the fields of economy, investment, and technology transfer.

The paper adds that Egypt is proceeding toward economic boom with a calculated plan that opens the door to cooperation with global economic powers in the United States, Japan, and Europe.

The paper notes that the Mediterranean-European partnership and the Egyptian-European partnership could be openings for boosting Egypt's economic capabilities. It remarks that the partnership agreements Egypt signs with various economic powers could help boost the national economy.

The paper says that economic boom will not be achieved without further partnership with the rest of the world in investment and technology.

In his daily column, Samir Rajab, the chairman of AL-JUMHURIYAH's board of directors, says U.S. Vice President Gore's brief visit to Egypt has several meanings. It aims not only to enhance bilateral ties, but is a straightforward international declaration that Egypt is one of the world's most important investment

regions. Providing Egypt with the means to advanced technology, he adds, produces great results, not only for Egypt, but also for many nations, whether in the Middle East or elsewhere.

In his daily column in AL-AKHBAR, writer Mahmud 'Abd-al-Mun'im Murad says the intense efforts by senior officials to increase foreign investment in Egypt and economic partnerships with foreign countries and to boost production for export now top the list of national priorities.

He adds that the national economy is a characteristic of a strong country and social development. Educational reforms and progress, he notes, are based on a sound economy, increased production and exports, and increased national revenue, with decisiveness over spending and concern for public money.

In its Wednesday [17 January] issue, the weekly magazine AKHIR SA'AH describes President Mubarak's meeting with Gore as a significant step toward enhanced bilateral economic cooperation.

It says this step will help increase investment and trade exchange and inject momentum into further cooperation between Egyptian and U.S. private sectors. It adds that the Egyptian-U.S. Council of Presidents, which consists of businessmen from both countries, convened during Gore's brief visit in the presence of President Mubarak and the U.S. vice president. This meeting, it continues, is the first working meeting of the Council of Presidents since it was set up during President Mubarak's visit to the United States in April. The weekly notes that the Mubarak-Gore talks in Cairo coincided with several important developments in the Middle East and with a new cabinet adopting a plan to develop the Egyptian economy to keep pace with the 21st century.

Economic Strategy, Partnership Viewed

NC1601181896 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1240 GMT 16 Jan 96

[Commentary by Samir 'Abd-al-Tawwab: "Mubarak's Development Strategy"]

[FBIS Translated Text] President Mubarak has a clear, well studied, and definite strategy for Egypt's economy and all forms of development. His strategy encompasses social, cultural, and economic development, and will enable Egyptian society to participate and compete in all fields as the 21st century draws near.

Partnership with the United States, Europe, and Asia is an original policy which will aid Egypt in reaching the objectives pinpointed in its development strategy. President Mubarak outlined his strategy and Egypt's ambitions at an international news conference yesterday

following his meeting with U.S. Vice President Al Gore. He said that Egypt will have a better economic future and increased opportunities in joining world markets with the advent of the new century, adding that every Egyptian citizen is willing to double his efforts to achieve these goals. He noted Egypt has accordingly removed many obstacles and is ready to remove any remaining ones during the coming phase. Egypt's goal is to create jobs for half a million citizens annually, which will require accelerated reforms.

As the president sees it, reform is based on the premise that, first, we are looking toward a new society moving toward peace; and second, a sound regional economy is the basis for stability and peace. Hence, we must develop both human and natural resources so as to advance. The reform philosophy largely depends upon the business sector, which is capable of playing a creative role. Another principal factor in reform is the vital transfer of advanced technology to Egypt, a factor in which private sector companies and businessmen can play a role. The partnership plays a cultural role that helps development. For example, partnership with the United States will be very beneficial, especially as the latter is fully convinced of the sound political, economic, and social climate in Egypt. Vice President Gore voiced this at the yesterday's news conference when he underlined the sound and unique performance of President Mubarak, who is seeking peace, prosperity, and a new Middle East based on prosperity, in which Egypt will be the focus of economic progress.

Vice President Gore headed a high-level partnership delegation to Cairo to underline the firm U.S. belief in Egypt's role and ability, and attended with President Mubarak the economic committee meeting stemming from the Egyptian-U.S. partnership. Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif said that President Mubarak stressed at the meeting that the purpose of all economic and partnership activities is to achieve an economic breakthrough while at the same time benefiting low-income groups in Egypt and creating jobs. The information minister added that the future of Egypt's economy and economic cooperation between Egypt and the United States were also discussed within the context of Egypt's economic abilities and resources, including infrastructure and investments. An action program was discussed yesterday that resulted in several proposals that focus on three main points. The first centers on defining the concept of future economic relations between the two countries. The second centers on the Egyptian-U.S. partnerships' role in strengthening and supporting the Egypt's economic reforms, while defining Egyptian needs and the U.S. ability to help. The third point centers on presenting a complete and integrated concept of how to

achieve positive results so that Egypt can attract major foreign investments that are commensurate with its goals for development and rapid growth.

The uniqueness and soundness of Egypt's economic, political, and social climate was probably best expressed by Vice President Gore when he said that foreign investors — Americans, Asians, and Europeans — interest in Egypt has increased following the reforms under President Mubarak. This means greater job opportunities that will promote higher growth rates. It is well known that the Americans do not say anything they are not convinced of. The same applies to European and Asian businessmen and economists.

President Mubarak's development strategy and planned economic and social reforms have undoubtedly begun to bear fruit as we get ready to surge forward into the 21st century.

Paper Foresees Extensive Economic Ties

NC1501221896 *Cairo MENA in Arabic*
2157 GMT 15 Jan 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 15 Jan (MENA) — The newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH says that U.S. Vice President Al Gore's visit to Cairo marks the beginning of extensive cooperation between Egypt and the United States in the spheres of the economy, investment, and the transfer of technology.

In an editorial in Tuesday's [16 January] issue, the paper says that Egypt is proceeding toward an economic boom in line with careful planning that will pave the way for its cooperation with global economic powers like the United States, Japan, and Europe.

The newspaper adds that perhaps the Mediterranean-European partnership and the Egyptian-European partnership are also powerful openings that can boost Egyptian economic capabilities. It notes that the partnership agreements that Egypt is signing with the economic powers can give the national economy a forward thrust.

AL-JUMHURIYAH says that economic progress will not succeed without greater partnership with the world in the fields of investment and technology.

Radio Lauds Partnerships With U.S.

NC1501165696 *Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic* 1240 GMT 15 Jan 96

[Commentary by Mahmud Marzuq: "Egypt and the Partnership of Peace, Development, and Stability"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Today's talks between President Husni Mubarak and U.S. Vice President Al Gore were very important for strengthening cooperation between

Egypt and the United States and putting their partnership agreement into practice, now that the two sides have proved eager for this partnership. Those who followed the talks held at the Presidential Palace in Cairo today noted a joint, definitive desire to expand cooperation between Egypt and the United States in all economic and technological areas.

The partnership agreement is a new channel for economic cooperation between Egypt and the United States. It shows the depth of relations between the two countries and reflects the U.S. Administration's appreciation of Egypt's economic performance and its efforts to achieve comprehensive reforms. This is stressed by the U.S. announcement that Egypt is a leading country in the region and that it played a pioneering political role in the peace process. The American side also said that the leadership in Egypt is working to turn the country into an economic leader. The new government under Dr. Kamal al-Janzuri is also interested in developing the economy and turning Egypt into an exporting and investment-attracting country. The Egyptian-U.S. partnership is concerned about these issues, which are also in line with President Husni Mubarak's economic and political strategy — a strategy that is strongly backed by the United States.

From this premise, we can say that the results of the talks between President Mubarak and the U.S. vice president give support to the Egyptian economy and constitute a qualitative leap from a political partnership to a political and economic one at the same time. Since the end of the October war, the two countries have worked together to achieve peace in the Middle East and rebuild their bilateral relations on this basis. The Egyptian-U.S. political partnership proved useful in changing the history of the Middle East, from wars and enmity to peace as a strategic option for all the peoples of the region. Without President Mubarak's initiatives and effective and intensive participation in achieving this peace, national Palestinian hopes and ambitions would not have been realized, and the Syrian-Israeli peace negotiations would not have made progress. The U.S. leadership appreciates Egypt and its leader, Husni Mubarak, for making peace for the world and prosperity for its peoples.

Egyptian-U.S. relations in President Mubarak's era are characterized by amity, mutual respect, and noninterference in each other's internal affairs. Both the United States and Egypt are also eager to find common denominators for equal partnership ties for the sake of regional and world peace and international cooperation. These common grounds are sufficient to establish special relations between the two countries. Egypt, therefore, can today reap the fruits of its political partnership with the

United States in the form of an economic partnership that makes the Egyptian economy more than a mere recipient of aid. This economy needs the help and contribution that will turn it into a productive and exporting economy attracting investment, creating job opportunities, and generating growth by itself.

Egypt's need for strong economic relations with the United States proceeds from two major objectives: increasing U.S. investment in Egypt and increasing Egypt's exports to the giant U.S. market. To achieve this, members of the Presidents' Council began to study government policies in Egypt and the United States. They will come up with important results through which Egyptian exports to the American market and U.S. investment in Egypt can be increased to realize the ambitions and hopes of the two countries' leaders; namely, laying down the bases for the economic cooperation that befits the next century, a century that will see radical changes in the conventional methods of international economic relations.

Perhaps the international confidence and appreciation that Egypt — state, leadership, people, and towering entity — enjoys as a result of its special relations with the big powers provide clear and firm evidence that the policy of the country's wise leadership is the right policy in advancing the Egyptian economy. Due to this policy Egypt and the friendly countries can enter the 21st century surely and confidently, with hope that Egypt will become prosperous, that the Egyptian economy will continue the march of development and progress, and that the Egyptian citizens will reap the fruits of the economic reform process.

Hamas Urged To Coordinate With Palestinian Authority

*NC1601090496 Cairo MENA in Arabic
0600 GMT 16 Jan 96*

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 16 Jan (MENA) — AL-AKHBAR has called on the Palestinian Hamas Movement [Islamic Resistance Movement] to coordinate its efforts with the Palestinian self-rule authorities to block Israel's move to deepen inter-Palestinian differences.

In its editorial today, the paper says the Palestinian struggle for liberation from the Israeli occupation took a long time because of the Palestinians' rift and division into numerous groups and factions hostile to each other. These groups and factions, it adds, were more interested in eliminating each other than in facing their country's true enemy.

The paper notes that the sweetest revenge for the assassination of Hamas engineer Yahya 'Ayyash will come through the movement foiling Israeli conspiracies by

unifying its efforts and ranks to achieve independence and win complete freedom.

Mubarak Outlines Measures for Encouraging Investment

*NC1601212296 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1545 GMT 16 Jan 96*

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Cairo, 16 Jan (MENA) — Out of his desire to encourage investment in Egypt and attract foreign capital, President Hosni Mubarak has issued a decree removing the 50 million Egyptian Pounds ceiling on capital for investment projects.

This was stated by Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif following the expanded meeting that the president held this morning with Prime Minister Dr. Kamal al-Janzuri and a number of ministers.

Al-Sharif said that according to this decree, the only requirement will be to inform the Investment Authority of any projects, and the Authority will then issue instructions to the relevant departments to provide all the necessary exemptions stipulated in the law. He added that this decree will be valid for the entire country, following the success of the experiment to gradually lift the ceiling on capital for economic projects.

The information minister said that President Mubarak set out several objectives and principles to enhance national economic action and improve its management in order to increase investments and attract capital to Egypt. He added that the president ordered the removal of all obstacles facing investors and those dealing with the country's organs and establishments, stressing that bureaucracy is the primary enemy of an economic breakthrough. He noted that the president asked the government to draw up a map on land use in order to specify the purposes for which the land can be used, achieve discipline in implementing the laws, and prevent encroachments. This will end conflicts over land usage and remove all obstacles to investment. The president also called for speeding up the legislation regulating the ownership of land by investors in small projects in order to exempt them from paying the cost of the land and infrastructure. He also called for submitting this legislation to the People's Assembly. [passage omitted]

The president also underlined the need to reduce the burdens imposed on investors and to remove the various tariffs on investment equipment and exported commodities that are imposed at entry and exit points, to give a competitive edge to the Egyptian producer. [passage omitted]

Mubarak Issues Decree on Governor Appointments
NC1601142696 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1305 GMT 16 Jan 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 16 Jan (MENA) — President Husni Mubarak has issued a republican decree reshuffling governors. The following is the text of the decree:

Article I: Muhammad 'Umar 'Abd-al-Akhir will be appointed a governor of Cairo, Faruq Muhammad al-Tillawi a governor of al-Buayrah, Counselor Isma'il al-Jawsaqi a governor of Alexandria, Dr. 'Abd-al-Rahim Shihatah a governor of al-Jizah, 'Abd-al-Fattah al-Sayyid Ahmad Ghalush a governor of al-Qalubiyah, 'Abd-al-Mun'im Muhammad Sa'id Yusuf a governor of Matruh, Counselor Mahir Muhammad Sulayman al-Jundi a governor of al-Gharbiyah, Muhammad Hasan Tantawi a governor of al-Fayyum, Salah Muhammad Salih Misbah a governor of Aswan, Muhammad Sabri al-Qadi a governor of Bani Suwayf, Yahya Ahmad 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Bahnasawi a governor of al-Suways, Muhammad Zahir 'Abd-al-Rahman a governor of al-Bahr al-Ahmar, Mustafa Ibrahim Sadiq a governor of Port Said, and Muhammad 'Izzat al-Sayyid a governor of al-Wadi al-Jadid.

Fakhr-al-Din Khalid 'Abduh will be appointed a governor of al-Daqahliyah, Counselor 'Adli 'Abd-al-Shakur Husayn a governor of al-Minufiyah, Mamduh Hasan al-Zuhayri a governor of Janub Sina', Muhammad 'Abd-al-Salam al-Mahjub a governor of Ismailia, Dr. Husayn Ramzi Kazim a governor of al-Sharqiyah, Dr. Muhammad Raja'i Judah al-Tahlawi a governor of Asyut, Mansur 'Abd-al-Karim al-'Isawi a governor of al-Minya, Muhammad Ahmad Disuqi Ghayati a governor of Shamal Sina', Counselor Ahmad 'Abd-al-'Aziz Sultan a governor of Dumyat, Counselor Mahmud Abu-al-Layl Rashid a governor of Kafr al-Shaykh, Ahmad 'Abd-al-'Aziz Bakr a governor of Suhaj, and Safwat Shakir al-Sayyid 'Ali a governor of Qina.

Article II: Muhammad Mahmud Yusuf will be appointed a mayor of Luxor.

Article III: This decree will be published in the official gazette.

President Husni Mubarak issued another republican decree. The following is the text:

Article I: The following will be appointed deputies to the Cairo governor: Ibrahim Sayyid Sayyid 'Atwah, for the northern region, Mustafa Kamil Muhammad for the eastern region, 'Abd-al-Qadir 'Abd- al-Hakim Mutawi' for the western region, and Qadri Yusuf Abu-Husayn for the southern region.

Article II: Republican Decree No. 456 of 1993 will be abrogated.

Article III: This decree will be published in the official gazette.

Al-Janzuri on Criteria for Government Performance

NC1301164096 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1310 GMT 13 Jan 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 13 Jan (MENA) — Prime Minister Kamal al-Janzuri, addressing the first People's Assembly session held after the formation of the new government, listed six criteria that govern the executive branch's public performance. The first of these, he said, is that public wealth is a sacrosanct resource. He explained that this does not only mean that it should not be stolen, a matter prohibited by religion and the law, but also that it should be safeguarded by meticulous performance and careful expenditure.

He added that another aspect of the performance of the new government, which will submit its program to the People's Assembly before the end of January, is consultation with the People's Assembly, the Consultative Council, all political parties, professional associations, union federations, and the press. He said that before the government presents any project or makes a decision, it is necessary to listen to the views of all these parties so that the government's decisions will be in harmony with the public's wishes.

The prime minister emphasized the qualities of seriousness and decisiveness, noting that the people cannot attain their rights if these qualities are absent. He said the ministers must be role models for the public in this respect.

Dr. al-Janzuri stressed the importance of realism and said that officials must visit the villages and provincial towns in order to come up with solutions that are based on factual conditions. He said that the ministers must do this before they submit their proposals for discussion by the cabinet or the People's Assembly.

He added that economic development must extend to all Egyptian areas and not be limited to the traditional Old (Nile) Valley area because the real future challenge is higher production and the creation of jobs.

Al-Janzuri said that energetic regional and international blocs pose a challenge to Egypt and that it must move swiftly to handle these challenges.

At the beginning of today's session, the president's decree forming the new government under Dr. al-Janzuri was read out and People's Assembly speaker Dr.

Ahmad Fathi Surur congratulated the new government on assuming its tasks. Surur pointed out that al-Janzuri is one of the economists who formulated and implemented the country's economic reform program.

Surur declared: We are looking forward to further progress in the economic reform program and hope to see the new government embark briskly on its tasks.

Correction to Sentencing of al-Jihad Figures

NC0301142896

The following correction pertains to the item headlined "Court Imprisons 8 al-Jihad 'Terrorists,' Acquits 12," published in the 3 January 1996 Near East & South Asia DAILY REPORT, page 24:

Column one, second paragraph, correct sourceline to read: Cairo AL—JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 29 Dec 95 p 8 (correcting name of newspaper)

Sudan

Al-Bashir on Regional, Domestic Issues

MM1701100796 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 15 Jan 96 p 17

[Interview with President Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir by Imam Ahmad Imam in Khartoum; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Imam] Could you comment on the developments on the Sudanese-Ethiopian borders in the past few days? Have you succeeded in containing this crisis through the contacts that have taken place and are continuing to take place at present between the political leaderships in the two countries?

[Al-Bashir] Following the Ethiopian Popular Front's assumption of power in Ethiopia, the Sudanese-Ethiopian relationship became one of sincere friendship due to our past relationship with this front; but later on we began to receive signals indicating that they were being pressured into alienating themselves from Sudan and that they were being subjected to increasing foreign pressure because of their relations with Sudan.

However, they managed to withstand these pressures to a certain extent. Then we began to feel that the alienation process had begun to take a clear form as evidenced by the positions they began to take at international conferences and their refusal to vote in Sudan's favor at these conferences.

Then they began to search for pretexts to disturb the atmosphere of relations with Sudan, such as the trivial incidents and skirmishes that have taken place on the borders between the two countries, despite the fact that these skirmishes were normal matters that take place

at the points of contact between any two neighboring countries between those who work in the border areas, be they administrative, security, or other apparatuses. The Ethiopians then began to fabricate claims about the existence of some sort of cooperation between the Sudanese Government and its apparatuses on the one hand and the [Ethiopian] opposition on the other hand. They started to exaggerate some incidents with a view to escalating the situation and harming the good relations that existed between the two countries.

On our part, we exerted enormous efforts to reassure them that no such alleged cooperation exists. They then asked for the formation of joint border committees to resolve the minor problems that arise so that these minor problems would not preoccupy the political leadership in the two countries.

It has become evident to us that they have continued to talk about Sudanese support for the Ethiopian opposition, despite the fact that we have always asked their representatives to form joint committees to ensure that the regions they suspect the [Ethiopian] opposition elements to be in are actually free of this alleged opposition and to prove to them in practice that we do not support any opposition to the Ethiopian Government.

We continued to deny the existence of any support on our part for the Ethiopian opposition and to reassure them that there are no Ethiopian opposition elements in our territory, particularly those areas where they accuse us of tolerating the existence of an opposition to operate against their regime. It became evident to us from their allegations of the presence of Ethiopian opposition in some regions of Sudan that they were only seeking pretexts to justify their submission to the foreign pressure that was being brought to bear on them because of their relations with Sudan, within the framework of the foreign powers' plan to antagonize Sudan and use Sudan's neighboring countries to further their [the foreign powers] hostility toward Sudan.

When the attempt on the life of Egyptian President Husni Mubarak took place at Addis Ababa, their position at the start was very normal, however, after about a month, or to be precise 32 days, they informed us that three of those who participated in planning the assassination operation were in Khartoum. We responded positively to them, formed an investigation committee, and sent them a full report containing all the information we could obtain. We also asked them to provide us with more details about these three people. We also made it clear to them that they could send an investigation team of their own to join our team in the investigations and search for those accused of involvement in the incident. But instead of responding to us, they began to lower

their diplomatic representation. It became evident to us that they were seeking the escalation of hostility toward Sudan. Recently, they began to carry out some provocative actions on the Sudanese-Ethiopian borders. At the beginning, we tried to contain these provocations on the grounds that they could have been acts committed by individuals among those who are [work] at the borders or that they were the work of bandits bent on armed looting, but it became evident later that these acts were being carried out by regular [Ethiopian] forces equipped with artillery tanks. This is roughly the situation as it now stands.

[Imam] Does the statement issued by the General Command of the Sudanese Armed Forces mean that you are now in a state of war with Ethiopia?

[Al-Bashir] As I have already said, Ethiopian acts of aggression have been taking place against Sudan the latest of which being that which took place on the 11th of this month of January. They have actually occupied another village. A move is taking place now to contain the situation.

[Imam] Those who observe Sudanese affairs cannot but note the continuation of the series of acts of aggression on Sudan by its neighbors. A few months ago there was Ugandan aggression and now there is Ethiopian aggression. To what do you attribute these acts of aggression?

[Al-Bashir] It is evident of course that these countries revolve in the U.S. orbit. If we were to examine the moves carried out by these countries starting with Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, and Uganda, we find that all these countries are bound by a special relationship with the United States. This U.S. plotting against Sudan falls within the framework of the press statement made by the American national security adviser in which he said that the United States will fight Sudan through its neighboring countries. It is evident that the aforementioned countries have been instigated by the United States to provoke Sudan. Israel too uses the neighborhood countries in its hostility toward Sudan and it forms a new axis in this regard together with the United States.

Thus it was not strange to hear the Israeli minister of health state last month that Israel supports Eritrea against fundamentalism in Sudan. This statement affirms that this axis has been exerting enormous efforts in using the neighborhood countries in its plans against Sudan. Indeed, the Ethiopian aggression on the Yemeni island of Hanish also falls within the framework of Israel's plan to impose its hegemony over the region and dominate certain special positions in the Red Sea area.

[Imam] Now that the Sudanese national conference has approved the new political system in Sudan...have the chances of success in the efforts to bring about national harmony dwindled by virtue of the fact that the aforementioned system is the final form of the political system that will prevail in Sudan?

[Al-Bashir] We will not close the doors of dialogue within the framework of the existing institutions. We still call on all the Sudanese to actively participate in the political field. Life cannot come to a standstill waiting for a certain person to decide to join the national action process. We are fully convinced that this political system is approximately what the people of Sudan have agreed upon. This political system did not come from a vacuum, but is the result of our past political experience and our future ambitions. It is also the result of a profound study which we began to implement, and found that it met with approval and participation by a wide base among the Sudanese people.

The proportion of participation in this political system is bigger than the proportion of participation in any past period ever. It is a container that embraces all the people of Sudan. We do not claim that it is 100 percent perfect, but it has been approved and blessed by the majority of the Sudanese. Some of the conservatives believe the recent constitutional steps have moved at a quicker pace than ought to have been the case, but these steps have met with definite approval by wide sections of the Sudanese community.

With regard to the continuation of dialogue within the framework of national harmony efforts, the dialogue in fact has never stopped and will continue within the framework of the existing institutions. Had we stopped at the first station we arrived at since the start of the National Salvation Revolution, we would not have achieved what we have achieved in regard to handing authority to the people through free elections. We are not seekers of power and we do not want to monopolize it. We did not draw up a system as a mere cosmetic operation but have brought about a radical change that would place power in the hands of the masses. Thus it is the right of every Sudanese to nominate himself for the elections to the federal national council or the presidency of the republic. There are constitutional guarantees that safeguard the safety of our political course within the framework of a consultative democratic climate. These guarantees include the stipulation that the president of the republic cannot dissolve the federal National Assembly whereas the federal National Council has the power to relieve or dismiss the president of the republic from his post. The 13th constitutional decree, which was recently approved by the transitional National Assembly (parliament),

defines the nature of political participation within the framework of the present institutions.

[Imam] Are there any channels of dialogue in operation between the Sudanese Government and al-Sadiq al-Mahdi and between the Sudanese Government and other oppositionists? In other words, are the doors for dialogue between the government and the opposition open?

[Al-Bashir] We will never close the door on dialogue, for from the start we have included dialogue within our program. When we prepared for detonating the revolution, our program underscored the importance of our holding dialogue with all Sudanese leaderships. Thus from the very first days of the revolution we embarked on holding dialogue conferences. We put forward all our basic political issues for discussion, and did not leave a single issue out of the discussion. We have never declared a program which we said was drawn up by a number of people in a closed room. All our programs were the result of dialogue conferences covering the various issues. Even the dialogues we have had with the political parties which we have proscribed and with their symbols were also held within the framework of a very clear plan as far as we are concerned, as we had decided that the first six months [of the revolution] were to be months devoted to winning confidence and that the opening dialogues with political forces or any specific forces would take place after the first six months of the revolution. So when we arrested the symbols of the political parties, clear orders were issued to show good treatment to the detained leaders, because we wanted to detain them for the specified period [the six months] and then embark on a dialogue with them. This is because we did not want to cause any bitterness to develop in the hearts of those leaders lest this might affect the dialogue with them, but the fact was that we did not meet with any response from the other side, for dialogue by definition requires the existence of two sides. The principle of dialogue has been a fundamental principle of the National Salvation Revolution since its detonation on 30 June 1989.

We approve of and laud positive matters because we harbor no hostility toward anyone. We are people with principles and stances. We appraise people according to their stances. We call a positive stance positive and a negative stance negative. For this reason, when al-Sadiq al-Mahdi spoke of Islamic laws and the unity of Sudan, we lauded his stances. We expect every leader, be he a ruler of Sudan, a participant in the governing of Sudan, or an aspirant to ruling Sudan, to have constant principles. One of the problems we have in the exercise of politics in Sudan is that when a person is in government, he adopts some constant principles,

and when he is in opposition and the government adopts his constants, he turns against these constants. Thus it is evident that there are no lines that define the courses, but there must be red lines which cannot be crossed.

We note that there are no big differences between all the Western democratic systems that embody partisan plurality, which the [Sudanese] opposition is trying to imitate or demanding be applied. There are no big differences between the Republican Party and the Democratic Party in the United States over strategies. The differences between them revolve around matters of detail such as taxes, social security, and so on. There is no big difference between the policy of the former U.S. President George Bush (Republican) and the present President Bill Clinton (Democrat). The same applies to Britain with regard to the Conservative and Labor parties. Thus, the differences always lie in the details and not in the strategies. Furthermore, the differences are usually a matter of personality conflicts. The American electioneering campaigns center on the image of the candidate, his manner of talking, and his wife. All these are matters that fall outside the framework of political thinking.

But in our case, it is different. If a person is in power, he would fight Garang (Colonel John Garang). When he is in the opposition, he makes an alliance with Garang. Let us take Mubarak al-Fadil as an example. Prior to the revolution he was minister of the interior and he arrested all the persons who attended the Ambua [as transliterated] conference [with Garang], confiscated their passports, and demanded that they be put on trial, but when he joined the opposition, he broadcast a statement over Garang's radio.

[Imam] Both sections of the Sudanese opposition, the northern and the southern, held a meeting in Asmara last week. What do you have to say about this?

[Al-Bashir] Most regrettably, the Sudanese opposition abroad has become a tool in the hands of the enemies of Sudan who use it as they please...they have met with Baroness Cox in London, they also met in Asmara. Indeed, they meet in every place opposed to Sudan. They are rallied together and exploited by Baroness Cox. This is because they are no longer in control of their affairs. The opposition abroad asks for money and those who provide them with such money control their movement. All the quarters that manipulate them are hostile to Sudan. Even if they [the opposition] came and joined the rule in Sudan, the aforementioned quarters would continue to fight Sudan. Let me cite the example of Garang. When the [present] northern opposition was in the opposition in the eighties, Garang allied himself with them and they contributed to arming

him. When they seized power following the popular uprising of 1985, Garang began to fight them — indeed the war intensified immensely. When they became the opposition, they joined Garang. This is because they do not possess the freedom to make decisions or decide on their movements. When they were asked to go to Asmara, they had no alternative but to obey and go. When they were asked to sign the Asmara statement, they had no alternative but to sign it. It is evident that the opposition had nothing to do with the formulation of the first Asmara statement. We say this because we know the parties. That statement bears the stamp of two quarters only: the rebels [Garang's] and the Communists, which is the line of the quarters hostile to Sudan. These two quarters' opposition is directed against Sudan's cultural line and not only against the regime. For the Sudanese parties are religious parties and so their bases could never oppose Sudan's Islamic cultural line. The first Asmara statement contains a flagrant call for secularism in Sudan. The entire history of these parties, their past, present, and future, are all linked to religious factions.

[Imam] Now that Sudan's relations with Eritrea, Ethiopia, and Uganda have become tense, what will happen to the African IGADD [Intergovernmental Authority for Drought and Development] mediation between the Sudanese Government and the Sudanese People's Liberation Movement?

[Al-Bashir] Naturally after the deterioration of Sudan's relations with Eritrea, Ethiopia, and Uganda these three countries are no longer qualified to mediate because of their hostile stances toward Sudan. Kenya is the only remaining member of the four IGADD member countries which supervised the Sudanese peace negotiations in Nairobi. We are still in touch with the brothers in Kenya, which is the only country capable of injecting life into the initiative, since Eritrea, Ethiopia, and Uganda have now taken a hostile position against us. We are prepared to continue with the peace talks under Kenya's supervision.

[Imam] One of the many questions raised about the new Sudanese political system within the framework of the national conference is that the features of its organizational character have not been defined yet. What do you have to say about this?

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[Al-Bashir] The system of the national conference is a unique Sudanese political system. It cannot be classified as belonging to the one-party system, like the Sudanese Socialist Union which existed in the days of ex-President Ja'far Muhammad Numayri for example. Neither is it a party pluralism system, for political parties have limited membership. The national conference is a new political experiment that is closer to our true conditions. Membership of the national conference is open to all Sudanese and it is like a container that embraces all the people of Sudan. As the Sudanese people sit in a circle without any discrimination among themselves they discuss their problems in a general and clear manner and reach agreement on one decision in most cases. We are talking here of a political system and not a political organization. The features of this system might seem structurally like an organization having a chairman, an executive committee, and subcommittees, but it is a comprehensive political system which represents all aspects of life. In other words, the political system constitutes part of the social system, while the social system also constitutes part of the political and security systems. There is nothing to separate the political and administrative systems in the state, but rather they are compatible with each other: The people's committee at the level of a district is responsible for the administrative challenge on the level of the whole district. The national conference itself monitors the work of the councils of districts, divisions, and localities and of the provinces. We have tried to set up a political system that begins with the quarters and ends with the Federal National Assembly (parliament).

In this unique political experiment, we are trying to benefit from our past political experience. In other words, we did not say that our entire political history was no good. For we had a system of party pluralism that had some positive aspects as well as negative aspects. Thus

we adopted the good aspects and discarded the negative aspects.

One of the negative aspects is that conflicts do not develop on matters of national interest. They are mostly conflicts on tribal, factional, family, and personal matters. Furthermore, the party pluralism experience has witnessed a bitter fight between traditional forces and the modern forces. Though the traditional forces represented the weight that existed inside the parliament, they could not subdue the modern forces represented by the trade unions, as evident from the fact that the modern forces have toppled governments more than once in the era of the parties. Because of the sugar crisis at the time, the modern forces succeeded in bringing the government down. Such forces cannot be ignored at all in any political system otherwise we would be like an ostrich that buries its head in the sand. This faction [workers and trade unions] should find its way into participation. For this reason, we tried to overcome all negative aspects and conflicts between traditional forces and modern forces. We also tried to ensure that choices would be made in an atmosphere of complete freedom so that the best elements would lead Sudan in the coming stage.

[Imam] What is your position regarding your nomination by some Sudanese provinces for the forthcoming presidential elections?

[Al-Bashir] I have not yet decided whether or not to accept nomination for the presidency of the republic. The rush by some provinces to nominate me for the presidency of the republic is one of the residues of the past which we should discard. The people are still dominated by the ideas of the past presidential elections and referendums and so they rush to nominate the candidates for the presidency. But in our opinion, this is a rush that has no justification, as the door for nominations to the presidential elections has not been declared open yet in accordance with the electoral laws. When the door for nominations is declared open, then any number of people can nominate a person as candidate as long as he possesses the necessary qualifications for nomination. A minimum of 20 people can nominate a candidate for the presidency of the republic. Here we are talking about persons nominating one person for the presidency of the republic and not a province or provinces. The nominee is then free to accept or not accept nomination. Thus the question of my nomination for the presidency of the republic shall be decided at some future stage. It would be premature to say now that so-and-so has accepted nomination for the presidency or that so-and-so has not accepted. Each event has its time and decision. We expect to see a large number of nominees, firstly because of the

simplicity of the conditions and secondly the absence of the need for a huge budget to finance a candidate's campaign or that he should be a major economic figure. Under the old practice, election campaigns demanded huge sums of money, because the candidate had to rally people to register him. But today the situation has changed, because election campaigns are financed by the state. We have also discarded the registration operation so that we would not be accused of fabricating the election operation and so as to prevent any foul play with regard to registration. We have also avoided other negative aspects that prevailed in the past. In past experience, candidates used to bribe the voters, but we have done away with such bad practices in elections. Furthermore, we do not want to have the candidate's financial situation determine his election to the federal national assembly (parliament) or the presidency of the republic, but rather his high capabilities and ability to contribute to the building of his homeland.

[Imam] Will you retire from your military post should you accept nomination for the presidency of the republic?

[Al-Bashir] As I have already said, it is premature yet to talk about such matters, however, the law does not stipulate that a member of the military establishment should retire if nominated for the presidency of the republic or the federal national assembly. There are at present representatives of the armed forces who have been elected...to membership of the federal national assembly by the national conference and have kept their military ranks. In the past, those nominated for the parliament had to resign from their government posts, but the situation now is completely different.

[Imam] What about Sudanese-Egyptian relations? Has the Libyan-Syrian mediation succeeded in bringing about something of a breakthrough in relations between the two countries?

[Al-Bashir] Naturally, there is nothing new in regard to our relations with Egypt particularly following the assassination attempt on the life of Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak in Addis Ababa. Egyptian President Mubarak accused Sudan only 10 minutes after the attempt. When he was flying, he also accused Sudan. Though the Ethiopians themselves did not state that the quarters involved in the assassination attempt had entered Sudan until 32 days later. Yet the Egyptian president held Sudan responsible only 10 minutes after the attempt within the framework of the escalation of his hostility to Sudan and the situation in Sudan. We still say that relations were as they had been previously, however, the Syrian brothers have been moving toward mediation between the two countries and the same

applies to the brothers in Libya. As I have already said too, the brothers in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia have also moved. We appreciate all these brothers' efforts and true intentions. We shall try hard to ensure the success of all their endeavors and the restoration of relations between Sudan and Egypt to what they should be for the good of the two countries and the two peoples.

Opposition Decides To Boycott Elections

NC1601192896 Cairo ESC Television in Arabic
1800 GMT 16 Jan 96

[FBIS Translated Text] At the end of a meeting for the Sudanese National Democratic Grouping in Asmara, the Sudanese opposition said it will boycott the Sudanese [legislative and presidential] elections scheduled for March. The opposition said that it will organize a political and media campaign to expose what it termed as the election farce.

[Paris AFP in English at 1653 GMT on 16 January in a related Cairo-dated item by Mona Salem, adds the following:

["The Sudanese opposition pledged Tuesday [16 January] to boycott the country's legislative and presidential elections in March and to step up its armed campaign to overthrow the Islamic military government in Khartoum.

["The umbrella Democratic National Alliance (DNA), which groups the Moslem northern opposition and southern Christian rebels, announced its decision at the end of a meeting in the Eritrean capital Asmara. It said it 'rejected the sham' of the elections, held under a 'constitution which consecrates dictatorship, repression and terrorism.'

["It is a vain attempt by the regime to redeem its image and legitimize its hold on power," it said in a statement issued in Cairo.

["The opposition alliance said the time was right to 'intensify its armed struggle by all means' against the government and back the southern Sudan People's Liberation Army of John Garang.

["The atmosphere in Sudan, the region and world is now right for change, and the DNA has decided to double its political and military efforts to overthrow the regime," the statement said.

["Opposition spokesman Faruq Abu-Isa told a press conference Tuesday that the alliance had drawn up a military and political plan to overcome government forces in 1996.

["The meeting in Asmara grouped various opposition members including Garang and representatives of the

Umma and Communist parties and the Democratic Unionist Party. They also voiced support for Ethiopia's call for an emergency meeting of the UN Security Council over Sudan's refusal to extradite three Moslem militants wanted for the attempted assassination of Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak in Addis Ababa last June.

["The opposition urged the United Nations to 'impose the heaviest possible sanctions on the regime to force it to hand over the terrorists it is sheltering and dismantle terrorist training camps in Khartoum.'"]

GCC Meets on Economic Challenge of Peace

NC1601172496 Paris AFP in English
1435 GMT 16 Jan 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kuwait City, Jan 16 (AFP)—More than 80 Gulf Arab officials and economists opened their first conference here Tuesday [16 January] aimed at responding to the future economic challenges created by Arab-Israeli peace.

Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states must cut red tape and adopt laws to draw capital to avoid "being marginalized" by the new Middle East, said Khalid al-Fayiz, president of the Gulf Investment Company, a GCC institution.

Al-Fayiz said peace would draw foreign capital because of new stability in the region and would generally lead to "lower defense spending" although not for Gulf countries "because of their experience" with Iraq and Iran.

"Fears of Israeli hegemony over the Arab economy" were overplayed and resulted "from a lack of understanding of Israel's capabilities, which is not an economic giant," he said.

The conference organizer, the GCC Chambers of Commerce Union, said: "The economic consequences of the peace process will not be limited to the countries engaged in the negotiations with Israel, but will affect the whole region."

Delegates said the conference here would not pass resolutions regarding normalizing Gulf ties with Israel.

The GCC's assistant secretary general for economic affairs, 'Abdallah al-Quwayz, said normalization with Israel would have "negative effects in the short and medium term and positive effects in the long term" on Gulf economies.

Peace would lead to "the opening of new markets" and would allow for "the transfer of technology," but in the short run it could "draw capital" from the Gulf and other areas, he said.

The GCC is made up of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates and Oman.

Bahrain

Police Reportedly Fire at Crowds Outside Mosque

NC1201213596 Paris AFP in English
2055 GMT 12 Jan 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Nicosia, Jan 12 (AFP) — Riot police fired rubber bullets and tear gas to break up a crowd outside a Shiite Moslem mosque in Bahrain on

Friday [12 January], wounding several people, opposition leaders said.

There was no official comment on the incident, but last week an official said: "The government will not tolerate mosques being used to spread subversion."

Some 300 police also fired real bullets in the air to try to disperse the crowd who had gathered for weekly prayers at the Imam al-Sadiq mosque in the capital Manama, they said by telephone. They could not say how many had been wounded or whether the injuries were serious.

Several people were arrested including Shiite leader Shaykh Jasim al-Khayyat and his three brothers, the opposition leaders added. Riot-equipped police were also deployed in several districts of the capital including al-Zinj, Bilad, al-Qadim and al-Na'im, they said.

It marked the third Friday in a row that violence flared outside Shiite mosques in Bahrain during weekly prayers.

Prayers went ahead Friday without any trouble in the Al-Imam al-Sadiq mosque in Diraz about 20 kilometres (12 miles) west of Manama where main opposition leader Shaykh 'Abd-al-Amir al-Jamri led the service and gave a sermon.

In his speech, he recalled the "people's demands to see the re-establishment of the constitution and parliament" suspended in 1975 and the "release of the people arrested" in a wave of unrest from December 1994 to last April, according to a copy obtained by AFP. He also called for exiles to be allowed to return to the country, and slammed the local media for their "complicitous silence" in the events.

The Gulf archipelago was rocked by sporadic violence earlier in the year after a Shiite cleric called for the restoration of parliament suspended by the Sunni-led government. Shaykh 'Ali Salman was later expelled and has sought political refuge in Britain.

Shiites Banned From Using Mosques for 'Subversion'

NC1301125396 Paris AFP in English
GMT 1214 GMT 13 Jan 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Manama, Jan 13 (AFP) — The authorities in Bahrain summoned Shiite opposition leaders to the interior ministry on Saturday [13 January] and ordered them to stop using mosques to "spread subversion" after a wave of unrest, officials said.

The main Shiite leader, Shaykh 'Abd-al-Amir al-Jamri, and seven others were called to the ministry and threatened with legal action if they continued to use mosques

to damage the country's "security and stability," an official said.

The interior ministry official, quoted by the state-run GULF NEWS AGENCY, said they had been summoned "in light of the recent incidents of rioting and sabotage which caused public panic and confusion."

He said the incidents included a blast in a shopping complex, arson, gas canisters exploding, and rioting in the streets with attacks on pedestrians and motorists, the agency reported.

The authorities announced on January 9 that three young Bahrainis had been arrested for setting off homemade explosive devices in two shopping centres in Manama on December 31.

Violence flared Friday for the third week in a row outside Shiite mosques in Bahrain during weekly prayers.

The Gulf archipelago was rocked by sporadic violence from December 1994 to April after a Shiite cleric called for the restoration of parliament suspended in 1975 by the Sunni-led government.

(Opposition leaders contacted by telephone on Friday said riot police fired rubber bullets and tear gas to break up a crowd outside the Shiite Moslem Al-Imam al-Sadiq mosque in Manama, wounding several people. Some 300 police also fired live bullets in the air and several arrests were made, they added.

(However, prayers went ahead Friday without any trouble in the Al-Imam al-Sadiq mosque in Diraz about 20 kilometres (12 miles) west of Manama where Jamri gave a sermon calling for the "re-establishment of the constitution and parliament," according to a copy of his speech obtained by AFP.

(Shiites account for up to two thirds of the population, according to foreign estimates contested by the government, which has indirectly accused Iran of fuelling the troubles.)

Shiite Opposition Leader Arrested in 'Clampdown'

NC1401165796 Paris AFP in English
1607 GMT 14 Jan 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Nicosia, Jan 14 (AFP) — Shiite opposition leader Shaykh 'Abd-al-Wahhab Husayn was arrested in Bahrain on Sunday [14 December] as the authorities attempted to clamp down on a wave of unrest in the Gulf state, his family and supporters said.

Shaykh Husayn, 45, was arrested at his home at Nuwaydrat, south of Manama, his family told AFP by telephone.

Opposition leaders confirmed the arrest of Shaykh Husayn, who was one of eight Shiite dignitaries hauled into the Interior Ministry on Saturday and warned to stop using mosques to "spread subversion and threaten state security."

Exiled Bahraini Opposition Figures Interviewed

NC1401083396 Paris AFP in English
0749 GMT 14 Jan 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Doha, Jan 14 (AFP) — Qatar has broadcast for the first time a television interview with exiled opposition leaders from Bahrain, including the one whose arrest in December 1994 sparked a wave of rioting in Manama.

Qatari state-run television can be seen in parts of neighboring Bahrain, but there was no immediate reaction over the broadcast late Saturday [14 January] from the government in Manama which is also embroiled in a border dispute with Doha.

"We denounce the security forces' activities against opposition leaders and the people and we demand a commission of inquiry to determine who is to blame for these practices," Shaykh 'Ali Salman said in the one-hour broadcast.

These practices include "torture, unlawful entry into homes and prayer sites," added Shaykh 'Ali, whose arrest by Bahraini authorities in December 1994 sparked months of anti-government unrest.

He was expelled and now lives in exile in Britain.

The Bahraini opposition for a month has accused the police of firing rubber bullets at worshippers to prevent them from visiting the mosques, injuring several people.

Shaykh Mansur al-Jamri, the son of the main Shiite Moslem opposition member 'Abd-al-Amir al-Jamri, also appeared on Qatari television saying the Bahraini opposition "is neither religious nor fanatical."

He added the "Bahraini people do not accept to be continuously humiliated" by the authorities.

The interviews were aired while Bahrain on Saturday summoned the opposition to stop using the mosques to "spread subversion and harm the country's security."

But opposition leaders told AFP by telephone they had ignored the call.

"We are determined to pursue our claims whatever the government does," one said, adding he had led prayers late Saturday in a mosque.

Trouble has flared outside mosques during weekly prayers between worshippers and anti-riot police for the last three Fridays in a row.

Press Urges 'Decisive' Action Against Inciters

JN1401115096 Manama WAKH in Arabic
0800 GMT 14 Jan 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Manama, 14 Jan (WAKH) — The newspapers AL-AYYAM and AKHBAR AL-KHALIJ issued here today warnings against any tampering with the homeland's security, the politicization of religion, and diversity of affiliations.

The newspaper AL-AYYAM says: "It is our duty to protect the homeland against any irresponsible actions. We will not allow the accomplishments attained over the years to be lost. A mistake can cost the homeland dearly, especially since we are a state with meager resources and we might not be able to start from the beginning again. We must learn from the experiences of others who destroyed their homelands because of the diversity of their affiliations.

The paper says in its editorial: "Anyone with a living conscience must be worried by the attempts to kill the homeland by the irresponsible actions taking place today, taking various forms and developing into images of hatred unfamiliar to the sons of this homeland throughout their history. Rather, it is an imported commodity alien to our society and good people. We are confident that this commodity will find nobody to promote and deal with, and that it will be nipped in the bud."

The paper adds: "All these irresponsible actions will reflect negatively on the homeland and on everyone of us. The blind acts of subversion are meant against everyone of us in this homeland. Otherwise, what does it mean to plant an incendiary bomb in a public marketplace, targeting and spreading panic among children, women, and the elderly?"

Concluding, the paper says: "The measures taken by the Interior Ministry yesterday to put an end to the security violations are meant to support and maintain all the accomplishments of the homeland and citizens. They are in the interest of everybody, all those who have faith in this homeland and its people."

For its part, AKHBAR AL-KHALIJ says that "the Interior Ministry's statement published in today's newspapers is a call for security and peace. It is a call for decisive action and eliminating a phenomenon which caused popular apprehension and aimed at destabilizing the country through violations that took the places of

worship as a place for political orientation and incitement of chaos."

The paper says that Muslims are united by their religion and its call for good advice. Muslims, however, are disunited when politics is forced into religion. This is because political opinions are controversial. If the imam discusses politics, then he will be speaking his own views, for which there is no room in the mosque. Mosques have been established to preach agreement and affinity among people. However, when the imam turns religion into a political instrument, then he will be completely destroying his responsibility as a preacher of agreement and affinity. It is a responsibility that was shouldered by the prophets of God, last of whom is Muhammad, may God's peace and blessings be upon him.

The paper adds: When people, individually and collectively, feel insecure and unsafe, then any one who even intends to harm them deserves punishment, not to mention those who carry out and incite harmful actions.

The paper continues: It is unacceptable in Islam to commit or incite acts of violence because this provokes teenagers and boys, thus diverting sermons from their basic goal to other goals sought by those who want to turn mosques into a means to achieve certain objectives. Premeditated objectives and purposes might be disguised by alleged values and concern for wasted rights. Those intentions cannot lead to good ends. Intentions in this context could be worse than actual misdeeds. People have paid a great deal and suffered untold pain because of personal ambitions."

Concluding, the paper says: "If religious occasions are used for incitement, provocation, and jeopardizing the security of individuals and groups, then decisive security action is required to confront such acts and to protect our children from misguidance and attempts to throw them into an unknown and dark future."

Kuwait

Iran's Foreign Minister Velayati Concludes Visit

Holds Talks With al-Sabah

LD1601134296 Tehran IRIB Television First Program
Network in Persian 1030 GMT 16 Jan 96

[FBIS Translated Text] At a meeting today with our country's Foreign Minister [Ali Akbar] Velayati, Kuwait's Shaykh Jabir al-Sabah, described ties between Iran and Kuwait as a model and emphasized the importance of joint and constructive cooperation between the Islamic Republic of Iran and countries in the region.

According to a Central News Unit report, the focus of attention at the meeting was on deepening and broadening relations and regional cooperation. Shaykh Jabir al-Sabah described ties between the two countries as satisfactory and added that Mr. Velayati's visit and talks between the high level delegations of the two countries were beneficial for the expansion and deepening of ties between the two Muslim and neighboring countries.

Mr. Velayati described the ever expanding trend of bilateral ties as positive and said that the existing cooperation at regional level and at international level is useful for the two countries.

The foreign minister explained the need for the stability and security of the Persian Gulf to be maintained by the countries in the region, and said the expansion of cooperation between countries in the region is in their best collective interests.

Views Relations With Gulf States

LD1601151396 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic
1222 GMT 16 Jan 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Kuwait, 16 January — Iranian Foreign Minister Dr. Ali Akbar Velayati today said that the growing improvement in his country's relations with Kuwait would have positive repercussions on Gulf relations as a whole. He stressed that Tehran continued its efforts to end the suffering of Kuwaiti POWs in Iraq.

Dr. Velayati told a news conference, held on the sidelines of a visit to Kuwait which started yesterday and is due to end later today, that the impact of Kuwaiti-Iranian relations which he described as: "good and have grown stronger in the last two years will be positive and constructive on relations in the Gulf whole." [passage omitted]

Vilayati rejected the news reports which said that the late troubles in Bahrain were backed up by Iran. He insisted that Tehran "holds and seeks the best intentions towards its neighbours and the Islamic states." He said "that the problems between his government and the Bahraini people must be resolved in a satisfactory way to both parties."

He said that the solution to the problem "is with the Bahraini nation and it must be resolved without conflicts outside the current frameworks. These circumstances should not lead to a foreign solution and intervention in the internal Bahraini affairs."

He confirmed that "the Iranian constant [elements] policy rejects the intervention in the internal Arabic and Islamic affairs." He showed his utter rejection of news reports which said that pro-Iranian Hezbollah is

involved in the training of the members accused of causing subversion in Bahrain.

Vilayati said "we are not concerned by these talks [reports] and we reject them whatever their sources are. Those who claim such matters must confirm their claims with documents.

When talking about the latest United States-Emirati manoeuvres in the Gulf, the leader of the Iranian diplomacy considered them as "a foreign intervention".

He expressed his belief that "any foreign intervention in the affairs of the extremely volatile area does not help the improvement of the state of affairs there, but it will muddy the current serenity."

He said that "foreign states look for their own interests in the region" calling on its states to "work in a way that serves their interests."

Dr. Velayati reaffirmed that Iran would not wage war against its neighbors in the event of the failure of the negotiations to settle the dispute with Abu Dhabi over the three UAE islands - Greater and Lesser Tunbs and Abu Musa. Velayati referred to Tehran's peaceful past and policies, and recalled that the war that took place with its neighbor Iraq was imposed on Iran, which acted in self-defense. He expressed optimism regarding the ending of the dispute between Iran and the UAE by peaceful means and said that the misunderstanding between Iran and the UAE would be resolved by way of bilateral talks between the two countries. He said that Iran was ready to continue the talks it had recently began with the UAE side in Doha. Velayati invited the UAE Foreign Minister to visit Tehran to continue the peaceful talks regarding the dispute on the sovereignty over the three islands and referred to his visit to Abu Dhabi some time ago at a similar invitation. The Iranian Foreign Minister repeated his reaffirmation of the continuation of the future peaceful policy of his country in this sphere by saying that if the negotiations failed in round one then there would be a second, third, and fourth round and so on until positive results were reached.

From another angle Dr. Velayati described Iranian-Syrian relations as having been good and fraternal for a long time, and said that the continuation of these relations will be in the interest of the states of the region. But Velayati referred to the Syrian-Israeli peace talks as being a subject on which there will be no agreement with Damascus. He expressed Iran's view that its good relations with Syria do not make it imperative that the political stances of the two countries should be identical on everything. When asked about the Iranian endeavours to unite the Iraqi opposition factions, Dr. Velayati said that some of these factions were present on Iranian

soil, such as the SAIRI. He noted that these factions were working to realise their interests, "and this does not mean that everything they do is acceptable to us." In this regard Dr. Velayati denied that there were any contacts between Iran and the Iraqi regime dissident Husayn Kamil. [passage omitted]

The Iranian Foreign Minister gave an additional justification for his country's authorities' refusal to contact dissident Kamil by saying that the latter had not proved so far his strong position among the Iraqi people. In conclusion Velayati referred to a recent visit of a high-powered Iranian delegation to Northern Iraq by pointing out that the aim of that visit was to halt the bloodshed among the Kurds, and described the latter's situation as being unsatisfactory. He said Tehran did not want disturbances near its border and said that the Kurds were Muslim brothers and we have to help them to stop the bloodshed.

Meets With Prince on Expanding Relations

LD1601161896 Tehran IRNA in English
1311 GMT 16 Jan 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Jan. 16, IRNA — Iran's foreign minister, 'Ali Akbar Velayati, and Kuwaiti Prince and Prime Minister Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah on Thursday underlined that it was in the interest of both countries in expanding mutual relations and regional cooperation.

The Kuwaiti crown prince described Kuwait's political relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran as sensitive, strategic and essential for the security and stability of the Persian Gulf.

He called for promotion of mutual relations in all domains, expressing hope that these relations would lead to greater cooperation at regional levels.

The two sides expressed satisfaction with the growing relations between the two neighboring states and stressed the need for exchange of high-powered delegations between the two countries.

Velayati said the security of the region is vitally important, and stressed the necessity for preservation of the Persian Gulf security by regional countries.

Holds News Conference

LD1601193296 Tehran IRNA in English
1617 GMT 16 Jan 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Jan. 16, IRNA — Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati said in Kuwait City on Tuesday [16 January] that foreign interference in the sensitive region of the Persian Gulf will not

improve security, but on the contrary will worsen the situation in the strategic region.

Speaking at a press conference, Velayati said the aliens are after their interest and the Persian Gulf littoral states should preserve their interest.

On the current misunderstanding between Iran and the United Arab Emirates [UAE], Velayati said the misunderstanding would be removed through mutual talks.

Velayati voiced Iranian readiness to continue negotiations, held last in Doha in December and invited the foreign minister of the United Arab Emirates to visit Tehran in order to continue dialogue.

Answering a question raised by the reporter of the daily AL-ANBA, Velayati said Iran will never enter into war with its neighbours and that negotiation is the only way to remove the current misunderstanding between Iran and the UAE.

On the allocation of budget by the U.S. Congress to be spent on subversive action against Iran, Velayati said the Americans have been at loggerheads with Iran since the victory of the Islamic revolution in 1979.

Velayati said in the meantime that they would fail again this time as they have already failed in their anti-Iran operations.

Asked by the REUTERS correspondent on the U.S. sanction against the international companies cooperating with Iran, Velayati said the companies were after their own interests and they would not overlook such interests simply to satisfy the United States.

Velayati said the United States seeks domination of the Zionist regime over the Middle East and the Islamic states and has attempted to undermine the Islamic countries.

Asked by Agence France Presse on Iran-Syria relations, Velayati said Tehran-Damascus relations are excellent and brotherly with historical background and the friendly relations between the two countries would serve the interest of the region.

On Syrian negotiations with the Zionist regime, Velayati reiterated that Iran is against the talks and added that the two countries which have close relationship do not necessarily see everything eye to eye.

On dispatch of an Iranian peace mission to northern Iraq, Velayati said, "the Islamic Republic of Iran intends to prevent bloodshed among the Kurds, they are Muslims and our brothers and if they have dispute, we should help them patch up their differences."

Velayati dismissed any Iranian contact with Iraqi army general, Husayn Kamil, who has already defected to Jordan and said Husayn Kamil had had a part in the past hostility against Iran.

On the unrest in Bahrain, Velayati hoped that the government and the people would resolve their differences through an acceptable solution to the two parties concerned and hoped that no violence would ever take shape in the Muslim state of Bahrain.

Velayati reiterated that the developments in Bahrain is up to the Bahrainis and that the Islamic Republic of Iran does neither believe in meddling in the internal affairs of Bahrain nor support an imposition of a solution to the domestic issue from outside.

Asked by the reporter of ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that many Arab countries accuse Iran of interfering in their internal affairs, Velayati said not many Arab countries, but some countries might state so.

Velayati said interference in the internal affairs of other countries is contrary to Iranian diplomacy.

On Tehran-Cairo relations, Velayati said at present the two countries have set up offices for interest protection and there exists some forms of cooperation between the two nations in the framework of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) and in economic and cultural areas.

He outright rejected the allegation that members of Bahraini opposition being trained in Iran and added that the allegation by itself is not sufficient and that such claims had to be supported by evidence.

Asked about possible Iranian role to free Kuwaiti prisoners of war (POWs) in Iraq, Velayati said Iran would do all it can in an effort to achieve that end.

Reporter of AL-QABAS asked about Afghanistan, Velayati said the Islamic Republic of Iran has been working to put an end to the bloodshed in Afghanistan in addition to helping the Afghan people resolve their problems.

Concludes Visit, Departs

*LD1601144096 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic
1400 GMT 16 Jan 96*

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Kuwait, 16 Jan — Iranian Foreign Minister Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati left Kuwait today for Tehran after a two-day visit, during which he and senior Kuwaiti officials discussed ways of strengthening bilateral relations and cooperation at regional and international levels.

The Iranian minister was seen off by Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad [al-Jabir al-Sabah], first deputy prime minister

and foreign minister, Khalid al-Jarallah, acting under-secretary at the ministry, and Gholam 'Ali San'ati, the Iranian ambassador to Kuwait. [passage omitted]

National Assembly Speaker Praises Iran Relations

*LD1601201596 Tehran IRNA in English
1900 GMT 16 Jan 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Jan. 16, IRNA — Speaker of Kuwait's National Assembly and Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati in Kuwait today voiced pleasure with developing relations between Iran and Kuwait and agreed that officials of the two countries should meet more regularly.

The Kuwaiti official called on Velayati to strengthen mutual relations between the two countries and continue regular consultations between the officials of the two countries. He also acknowledged the role played by the ambassadors of both countries for upgrading the relations between them.

The speaker of Kuwait's National Assembly also expressed hope that he would shortly visit Tehran in response to a previous visit to Kuwait by the speaker of the Majles of Iran, Nateq-Nuri.

Country Said Satisfied Over Support From Iran

*LD1601184396 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic
1730 GMT 16 Jan 96*

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Kuwait, 16 Jan — Kuwait has today expressed its satisfaction over Iran's stance in support of Kuwait's just rights, which are derived from the resolutions of international legitimacy regarding the Iraqi aggression against it in 1990.

Commenting on the visit to Kuwait by Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati, which concluded earlier today, a responsible Kuwaiti source said that "Tehran continuing a policy that demands from Iraq compliance with all the Security Council's resolutions" as a result of the Iraqi aggression on Kuwait in 1990.

The source, who spoke with KUNA, said "this Iranian policy, which has been confirmed during the visit, was not a new outcome but an extension of previous principled Iranian stances." [passage omitted]

The source pointed out that Velayati's visit had resulted in the agreement of continuing the contacts between the Kuwaiti and Iranian sides at all levels, pushing the efforts for strengthening bilateral relations, and encouraging common cooperation at the level of the gulf and the Arab and international worlds. [passage omitted]

Syria's Yasin Arrives for Committee Meeting

LD1601210896 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic
1800 GMT 16 Jan 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Kuwait, 16 Jan — Dr. Salim Yasin, the Syrian deputy prime minister for economic affairs, arrived here today at the head of a delegation that included a number of ministers to attend meetings of the fourth session of the Kuwaiti-Syrian committee, which will start its proceedings 17 January. [passage omitted]

Dr. Yasin said in a statement to journalists after his arrival that the main aim of the joint Kuwaiti-Syrian committee is coordination, cooperation, and integration in all spheres; consequently, a large number of issues will be discussed.

He added that the committee will discuss numerous issues in the spheres of commercial and economic investment, as well as a number of social and scientific issues. [passage omitted]

It is worth mentioning that the meetings of the fourth session of the Kuwait-Syrian committee will also discuss trade exchanges, the executive tourism program between the two countries, cultural and health cooperation, land transport issues, cooperation in the sphere of customs, and the memorandum of understanding between the Kuwaiti and Syrian planning ministries, which includes cooperation in the sphere of information, research, and planning studies.

Qatar

Former Amir Reportedly Plans To Reclaim Throne

NC1201080496 Cairo AL-'ARABI in Arabic
8 Jan 96 p 3

[FBIS Translated Text] The former amir of Qatar who toured Gulf states last week was accompanied by 50 bodyguards hired in France. Reports say the former amir hired a ship carrying gunmen from Belize in Central America to launch an attack on Qatar and reclaim the throne.

Ruling circles in Qatar are paying careful attention to these reports. They say: We are prepared. The amir's return is out of the question.

The warm welcome the other Gulf states gave the former amir was designed to pressure the new amir to accept particular policies.

Saudi Arabia

Paper Details King Fahd's 'Relapse'

MM1601152596 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI
in Arabic 13/14 Jan 96 p 1

[Report by Muhammad Dalbah: "King Fahd Suffers Another Clot"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Washington, AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI — AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI has learned that the Saudi monarch, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, has suffered a new relapse following a minor clot that caused two types of paralysis in his legs and arms — which has prompted the postponement of his travel abroad for medical treatment.

Informed Saudi sources said that this relapse has prompted the postponement of the knee operation he was to undergo in Switzerland.

There is a prevalent belief in Riyadh that the Saudi monarch will be moved to the royal suite in the military hospital in Jeddah, as he prefers not to remain in Riyadh.

The sources said that Prince 'Abd-al-'Aziz Bin-Fahd, an adviser holding the rank of minister in the Royal Court, is currently in Jeddah to supervise arrangements for the medical treatment.

The sources said that Defense Minister Prince Sultan and Prince Salman, the amir of Riyadh, do not favor the Saudi monarch's travel abroad.

Meanwhile, Saudi officials and Western diplomats have said that no progress has been made in the investigations launched two months ago to identify those who bombed the building housing the U.S. mission training the Saudi National Guard in Riyadh. [passage omitted]

Envoy to Jordan Lauds Bilateral Relations

LD1601153296 Riyadh SPA in English
1235 GMT 16 Jan 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman, Jan 16, SPA — Saudi Ambassador to Jordan 'Abdallah al-Suwaydiri has lauded the bilateral relations between Saudi Arabia and Jordan.

In an interview with REUTERS, he said the visit of Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, the foreign minister of Saudi Arabia, to Jordan last week was 'successful.'

During his visit, Prince Sa'ud expressed Saudi Arabia's readiness to cooperate with Jordan in all fields, the ambassador noted.

During the visit, the envoy said the two sides agreed to activate all bilateral committees which existed earlier and to review all specified issues at the ministerial level.

The ambassador said the Saudi-Jordanian stand on Iraq is identical, adding that the two sides are calling for preservation of Iraq's sovereignty, adding that the ruling regime in Iraq should implement all international resolutions related to Baghdad's invasion of Kuwait in order to lessen sufferings of the Iraqi people. 'In case of non-compliance of these international legitimate resolutions, Iraq will be completely isolated. In such a case, there will also be an increase in internal disturbances.'

The ambassador said the issue of change in Iraq is an internal matter, adding that this should be in the hands of the Iraqi people.

Al-Mas'ari on Deportation Order; Use of Radio, TV
JN1601185896 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic
1600 GMT 16 Jan 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The Saudi opposition figure, Muhammad al-Mas'ari, who resides in London, has denied that the order to deport him from Britain has been confirmed. Al-Mas'ari answers questions by Salah Salamah:

[Begin recording] [al-Mas'ari] This is absolutely untrue. What happened was that yesterday morning, the appeal against the deportation was officially registered at the competent department in charge of appeals against deportation decisions. This is called the Immigration Appellate Authority [preceding three words in English] or the department dealing with appeals related to immigration. This is not judicial in the full sense of the word but has the power of arbitration.

However, I believe that the man who will look into the matter is on the level of a judge. This means he is the head arbitrator.

[Salamah] Has a date been set to look into the case?

[Al-Mas'ari] Nothing is fixed yet. We expect that this authority will give us information to this effect within two weeks and we expect the date to be fixed in late February or early March, that is, after the end of the holy month of Ramadan.

[Salamah] What prompted the British Government to take such a measure?

[Al-Mas'ari] The British Government did not lie. It announced the real reasons; namely, its fear for certain arms deals and the great pressure brought to bear on them by the Saudi regime.

[Salamah] Do you intend to stay in Britain permanently or are you planning to leave to the region soon?

[Al-Mas'ari] This is up to the will of God. We expect that the regime will submit to the reform demands. In

any case, I will eventually be returning to a country where things have changed, where the legitimate rights and supremacy of the shari'ah [Islamic law] reign supreme, where the nation's rights are preserved and its interests are considered to be above all other interests. [end recording]

[Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic at 1700 CMT on 16 January carried a brief report on the above interview and added the following:

"In his answers to Salah Salamah questions, al-Mas'ari revealed that he is going to establish information channels in the name of his movement:

"[Begin recording] [al-Mas'ari] From the day we arrived here, we have been carrying out ideological and political work to enlighten the masses about Islam and the political conditions. This requires all the information channels that we can obtain. We began with fax machines, then electronic networks and others. However, at one point we will have to move to radio and television. God be praised, we have been able to reserve two hours daily on a satellite which will be named later. These two hours will be occupied with television transmission. Of course, at the beginning there will be one or two hours of television broadcasting and the remainder will be by radio. We will then grow gradually. As you know, television broadcasting is very expensive and radio broadcasting is not that cheap. We will have one hour of radio broadcasting per day and perhaps one or two hours of television broadcasting per week. By the way, this will be done by satellite to viewers in Saudi Arabia and neighboring areas through their dishes. These cannot be disturbed.

"[Salamah] You mentioned that radio and television broadcasting is very costly. Who will provide money for this?

"[Al-Mas'ari] We continue to receive good backing from those who admire us and from those who support reforms from various sectors and groups in the Arabian Peninsula and in neighboring Gulf states. Some brothers and admirers in Indonesia and Malaysia lend us strong support.

"[Salamah] This means that you receive no aid from any official quarter.

"[Al-Mas'ari] No, there are no official quarters. [end recording]"

United Arab Emirates

Official: No Normalization Before Peace With Syria

JN1601104996 Damascus SANA in Arabic
0900 GMT 16 Jan 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Abu Dhabi, 16 Jan (SANA)—SANA team— Sources in the United Arab Emirates [UAE] have emphasized the strength of UAE relations with Syria and its solidarity with it in efforts to restore the occupied territories.

Acting Foreign Ministry Under secretary Sayf Sa'id Bin-Sa'id told the SANA team here that his country's relations with Syria are excellent and are based on the joint fate, blood, and history bolstered by the instructions of President Hafiz al-Asad and His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan.

He said bilateral relations are witnessing continued progress in political, economic, and cultural fields in a manner that consolidates these relations toward wider horizons in service of the two sisterly states.

He said the UAE has welcomed the peace talks on the basis of the principles on which the Madrid conference was convened, spearheaded by the international legitimacy Resolutions Nos. 242, 338, and 425, the principle of land for peace, and the return of the whole of the occupied Arab territories, including the Golan and southern Lebanon, to their legitimate owners.

He added that unless peace is realized on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks, the Middle East peace process will remain incomplete. He added that if Israel succeeded in understanding the Syrian position on the withdrawal from the Golan, and if it does not create any obstacles, this will advance the Middle East peace process.

The UAE Foreign Ministry's undersecretary emphasized that his country will not host any multilateral committees talks before realizing the just and comprehensive peace and the full withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories. He also emphasized that without peace on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks, normalization cannot be realized.

Yemen

Salih, Peres Reportedly Meet at Mitterrand Funeral

NC1201121596 Paris AFP in English
1204 GMT 12 Jan 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Sanaa, Jan 12 (AFP)—Yemen is ready to sign a peace deal with Israel after the Jewish state concludes an accord with Syria, a senior Yemeni official said Friday [12 January].

"The future of the Middle East requires a new vision, which will come to fruition when Syria signs an accord

with Israel," the official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said.

"Yemen is in favour of a comprehensive peace including trade links," he added, saying his country above all wanted to implement policies that would develop its economy.

Israeli Prime Minister Shim'on Peres said he had briefly met Yemen's President 'Ali Abdallah Salih at a lunch in Paris on Thursday, where both leaders attended a requiem mass for former president Francois Mitterrand.

"He told me that when we achieve peace with the Syrians, he believed Yemen might follow in the same direction," Peres said.

Yemen, which has theoretically been in a state of war with Israel since the creation of the Jewish state in 1948, denied the two leaders had met.

'Responsible Source' Denies Meeting

JN1101204096 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network
in Arabic 2000 GMT 11 Jan 96

[FBIS Translated Text] A responsible source has denied the news reports circulated by some mass media today to the effect that an official meeting or talks took place today between brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the republic, and Israeli Prime Minister Shim'on Peres.

In a statement to the YEMENI NEWS AGENCY, SABA', the source said these reports are baseless and groundless. The source noted that there are no official or unofficial contacts between Yemeni and Israeli officials.

It added that Lt. Gen. President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and Shim'on Peres were among the presidents and heads of state who took part in the funeral of former French President Francois Mitterrand. It explained that the fact they were both present in one place does not mean that an official meeting took place.

Envoy Repeats Denial of Meeting

MM1201105796 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT
in Arabic 12 Jan 96 p 1

[Report by 'Ali Ibrahim: "Paris: First Meeting Between 'Ali Salih And Peres"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Sanaa, London, Paris, AL-SHARQ AL- AWSAT — Official Israeli radio has announced that Israeli Prime Minister Shim'on Peres met with Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih for the first time in Paris yesterday, Thursday. Peres announced that Yemen could sign a peace agreement with Israel if Syria signs a peace agreement with it. He stressed that

he had held a brief meeting with Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih to discuss with him peace prospects in the region. [passage omitted]

Yemeni Ambassador to Paris Muhammad 'Abdallah al-Iryani has denied to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT over the telephone that such a meeting took place. He said that President Salih was in France to participate in the funeral of former French President Francois Mitterrand.

Salih Receives U.S. State Department Delegation

JN1601171196 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 16 Jan 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Lieutenant General President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih today received a U.S. State Department delegation headed by Philip Wilcox, coordinator of terrorism fighting at the U.S. State Department. They discussed several issues pertaining to bilateral relations and cooperation between the two friendly countries. They also tackled ways to coordinate international efforts to fight world terrorism in order to serve international peace and stability.

The U.S. delegation expressed its appreciation for the democratic experience in our country, as well as its satisfaction with our country's support for efforts to fight world terrorism.

During the meeting, the brother president stressed our country's firm rejection of terrorism regardless of its form and source. He also voiced support for efforts to fight terrorism everywhere. The meeting was attended by U.S. Ambassador David Newton.

Salih Receives Tunisian Envoy, Letter

JN1601170396 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 16 Jan 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Lieutenant General President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih today received Sadek Fayala, Tunisian secretary of state for African affairs and envoy of Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali. The Tunisian envoy conveyed a letter to the president from his brother President Zine El Abidine dealing with brotherly relations between the two fraternal countries and ways to promote them, as well as regional and Arab developments of interest to both countries. The letter also stresses Tunisia's eagerness to find a peaceful solution to the current differences between our country and Eritrea and expresses support for all efforts and good offices to find a just settlement of the maritime border issue between the two countries based on international law in order to bolster security, stability, and peace in the region.

The president asked the Tunisian envoy to convey a reply letter to his brother President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali. The letter contains the president's greetings, as well as his wishes of good health and happiness for the Tunisian president and progress and prosperity for the fraternal Tunisian people. The president also stressed our country's eagerness to enhance brotherly relations and cooperation between our country and Tunisia for the benefit of the two fraternal peoples. The meeting was attended by Dr. 'Abduh 'Ali 'Abd-al-Rahman, deputy minister of foreign affairs; Marwan Nu'man, head of the African Department at the Foreign Ministry; and (al-Moncef al-Lawati), Tunisian ambassador to our country.

14 Leading Egyptian 'Extremists' Said Deported

NC1501073096 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0640 GMT 15 Jan 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Sanaa, 15 Jan (MENA)—In its issue today, AL-AHRAM reports that Yemen has expelled 14 leading Egyptian extremists who were living in Yemen under the protection of tribal and Islamic groups.

The paper says the Yemeni Government did not hand them over to Egypt because there is no bilateral extradition agreement. The terrorists have been deported to the countries of their choosing.

AL-AHRAM notes that a dispute broke out among three Egyptian extremists a few weeks ago. One extremist was killed and the other two fled abroad. The Yemeni Interior Ministry submitted ample information about this incident to the Egyptian Interior Ministry.

Former YSP Minister Returns From Exile

MM1701095796 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 14 Jan 96 pp 1, 6

[Unattributed report: "Jarallah 'Umar Tells AL-HAYAH: I Will Return to Yemen Today as Socialist Party Member"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] London, AL-HAYAH — Jarallah 'Umar, a Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] leader, has said that he will return to Sanaa today. Jarallah, a former culture minister, left Yemen in the summer of 1994 following the YSP forces' defeat in the confrontation with government forces, which entered Aden and al-Mukalla in the first week of July 1994. The YSP official has resided in Cairo since he left Yemen.

Asked whether he is returning to Yemen as a YSP member, Jarallah 'Umar told AL-HAYAH: "I am a YSP member, and I will do what the party assigns me to do. I unreservedly support the current YSP leadership under 'Ali Salih 'Abbad (Muqbil)." [passage omitted]

In his statement Jarallah said: "I feel at this particular moment that the Yemenis must unite their ranks, because Yemen has ahead of it great tasks which must be addressed: development, political accord, and the problems with all neighbors."

He added: "I support the government's policy on the islands issue. This policy is based on wisdom and responsibility. Because both Yemen and Eritrea need peace, stability, and development. I support Yemen's

full right to restore its sovereignty over the islands, and I support the government's decision to opt for dialogue, not war."

Concluding, he said: "Finally, I am happy to be returning to the homeland, and I hope that no Yemeni will remain outside his homeland in the future." [passage omitted]

Tariq 'Aziz Bid To Escape Reportedly Aborted*JN1601131396 Amman AL-BILAD in Arabic
17 Jan 96 p 5*

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] AL-BILAD has learned from reliable Iraqi sources that Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz was not allowed to cross the Tirbil border post while trying to go to Amman with his family, and was informed by the post chief that his family will not be allowed to accompany him. 'Aziz telephoned the Iraqi Presidential Office to obtain official approval, but all his attempts to contact President Saddam Husayn were doomed to failure.

The Iraqi sources added: The Iraqi deputy prime minister succeeded in contacting Ahmad Khuddayir, chief of the Presidential Office, who informed him that it is difficult to obtain approval to bring his family with him in his trip. He asked him to send his family back and proceed on his mission. However, 'Aziz returned to Baghdad to learn the reason for this after obtaining the Iraqi president's initial approval to take his wife to a Jordanian hospital for treatment accompanied by their son, Ziyad.

In another development, Colonel Shakir al-Juburi, an Iraqi military intelligence official, arrived in Amman last week after succeeding in escaping with a forged passport. Al-Juburi is the second Iraqi military intelligence official to flee Iraq since the escape of Rafiq al-Samarra'i, former chief of the Iraqi military intelligence, who sought refuge in Iraqi Kurdistan and then moved to Syria one year ago. [passage omitted]

Husayn Kamil Said To Pay 'Secret' Visit to Damascus*NC0501162096 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi People
in Arabic 1500 GMT 5 Jan 96*

[FBIS Translated Text] Saddam Husayn's son-in-law, General Husayn Kamil, has paid a secret visit to Damascus following an invitation last week by the Iraqi opposition parties grouping.

[Saudi newspaper] 'UKAZ has learned from well-informed sources that General Husayn Kamil met during the visit with a number of the Iraqi opposition figures, including Jalal Talabani, Salah 'Umar al-'Ali, Salah al-Shaykhly, former Major General Wafiq al-Samarra'i, and Bayyan Jabr, in addition to a number of representatives from the Syrian Ba'th Party.

According to information received by the paper, the meeting discussed major issues pertaining to Iraqi policy and ways to avoid a bloody confrontation on the domestic level in Iraq if the change movement the conferees unanimously proposed was carried out. The

conferees also discussed communication methods with the Iraqi opposition inside and the role the Iraqi clans will play once the process of overthrowing Saddam Husayn's regime is declared. Moreover, they discussed ways to prepare for the opposition forces crossing through Kurdistan to the areas under the control of the Baghdad ruler.

The conferees underlined their rejection of sectarian partition and foreign interference in Iraqi affairs.

Observers described the opposition factions' meeting with Husayn Kamil as a giant step that clearly supports King Husayn's call for conciliation [among the opposition].

Hashim Hasan al-Majid Reportedly Arrested*JN1601123796 Amman AL-HADATH in Arabic
17 Jan 96 p 8*

[FBIS Translated Text] Informed Iraqi sources have revealed that Iraqi security services have arrested Hashim Hasan al-Majid, younger brother of former Minister of Defense 'Ali Hasan al-Majid.

AL-HADATH's sources added that the circumstances of al-Majid's arrest are still "unclear," and so are the charges against him.

The sources did not rule out the possibility that Hashim al-Majid's arrest could be connected with the case of General Husayn Kamil, especially since Hashim is the uncle of [Husayn Kamil] al-Majid.

It should be recalled that Hashim al-Majid held the post of al-Ta'mim governor and Babil governor, and was the target of assassination attempts by Kurdish opposition after he confiscated farmlands and repressed rebellion in northern Iraq.

Minister: 'No Problems' in Relations With Jordan*MM1601140796 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT
in Arabic 14 Jan 96 p 2*

[Unattributed report: "Iraqi Interior Minister Believes There Is No Problem in Relations With Jordan"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Tunis, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT — Iraqi Interior Minister Muhammad Zimam 'Abd-al-Razzaq has denied the existence of problems between Iraq and Jordan, pointing out that their joint economic interests are continuing. He stressed that his government is against terrorism. He vehemently attacked the Iraqi opposition, describing its members as "agents financed in dollars."

In a statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT following the proceedings of the 13th session of the Arab interior

Ministers council, held recently in Tunis, 'Abd-al-Razzaq said that "Iraq is against all forms of terrorism."

He said that the Arab interior ministers' approval of the document concerning the code of conduct for the member states of the interior ministers council vis-a-vis fighting terrorism "represents an advanced position in the face of the terrorism phenomenon." He added that "Iraq is currently subjected to international terrorism from the major states and world Zionism."

The Iraqi minister denied the existence of political prisoners in Iraq, saying that there had been none "since the presidential amnesty" issued last July. He strongly attacked the Iraqi opposition, describing its members as "agents linked to foreign circles and financed in dollars." He said that "the real opposition should be based inside the country, not abroad." Without naming him, the Iraqi interior minister described General Husayn Kamil, President Saddam Husayn's son-in-law and former industry and military industrialization minister who defected to Jordan, as "a person who stole the state's money and fled to another state with the money."

On relations with Jordan 'Abd-al-Razzaq said that "there are no problems between the two countries. Proof of this is that there is still diplomatic representation between Baghdad and Amman, and economic interests between them are continuing." He said that "unobjective statements will not affect relations between the two fraternal peoples."

He described the plan concerning the establishment of a federation in Iraq as "U.S. ideas and media fabrications that will not affect Iraq."

As to the suggestion that this was an attempt by King Husayn of Jordan to establish a monarchy in Iraq, the Iraqi minister said that "Iraq has chosen its own leadership by itself through a people's referendum."

Jordan Paper Publishes Citizen's Letter to al-Qadhdhafi

JN1501102796 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 14 Jan 96
p 21

["Letter" signed by Dr. 'Adnan al-Rashid, an Iraqi citizen living in Riyadh, to Libyan President Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, dated 12 January]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Mr. Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, Libya:

Iraqis everywhere are disgusted with your recent statements in which you appeal to Iraqis everywhere to take up arms against King Husayn.

The Iraqi people know you very well, since the moment you staged the coup on 1 September 1969. They realized

that U.S. intelligence was behind the coup to ensure that someone would be there to implement its policy after the military base in your country is removed.

The Iraqis have never thought of taking up arms against King Husayn. Nor will they ever think of that. King Husayn opened the doors of his country to Iraqis, where they found refuge and shelter from the oppression of the executioner, who has been an agent of the Americans since he sought asylum in Cairo in 1960. Egyptian intelligence uncovered this fact then. [passage omitted]

Your appeal for taking up arms against King Husayn is worthless. You are the one who once said that democracy is originally derived from the Arabic phrase daymumat al-kursi [permanent seat]. This talk disgusted Arabs everywhere.

We would like to add to your information — if you have any — that King Husayn never ordered the execution of any Jordanian citizen. Did you see how he was received by the people in Amman when he returned from Europe? [passage omitted]

You should know, Mr. al-Qadhdhafi, that King Husayn has not attacked, invaded, or declared war on any country, such as Kuwait. We tell you frankly that should Iraqis bear arms, this will be against Saddam Husayn. They did that in March 1991 when 14 out of 19 governorates in Iraq were captured. A few years ago, you attacked Saudi Arabia, which turned the desert into green farms, established seven universities, and extended aid to all countries. It even offered Iraq \$27 billion in its war with Iran. Today, 29,000 Iraqi refugees live in Saudi Arabia. They have a university there and they are proud of that.

We tell you that the Arabs are bored with ridiculing your crude statements. It is enough to tell you that 30,000 Iraqis now live in Jordan. In addition, Jordan provides the Iraqi people with food and medicine. Any Iraqi who wants to have a surgery travels to Jordan, even if he is a top official. Do you think that the Iraqis will take up arms against King Husayn? Or should they take up arms against Saddam Husayn, who caused the Iraqi people to be homeless and hungry and who spent \$190 billion between 1977-1987 on weapons, according to statistics released by the Stockholm Institute for Armament? [passage omitted]

Your role in the region is not over yet. Once it ends on account of your unbalanced statements, U.S. intelligence will pull the rug from under your feet. However, your role is important today for the neo-colonialist to disgrace the Arabs and make the Europeans ridicule us because of your reckless statements.

We the Iraqis everywhere protest your statements. We know that King Husayn's call is a noble appeal that does not mean partition. Anyone who takes the king's call to mean partition does not know anything about international law. It means federation and is not different from the system applied in the United States, the Swiss Federation, Yugoslavia, and elsewhere. Can we say that the United States, Switzerland, or Yugoslavia are divided?

In conclusion, we tell you, Mr. al-Qadhafi: We are certain that your end will not be any different from that of tyrants and executioners. [passage omitted]

French National Assembly Delegation Pays Visit

JN1601193996 Baghdad Iraq Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 16 Jan 96

[Announcer-read report]

[FBIS Translated Text] A French National Assembly delegation arrived in Baghdad today headed by Jean-Bernard Raimond, former foreign minister and National Assembly member, on a week-long visit to Iraq. The delegation also includes National Assembly members Jean-Marc Nesme of the Union for French Democracy and Michel Formet of the Socialist Party.

The visit is an opportunity for the French National Assembly delegation to acquaint itself with the impact of the unjust blockade imposed on Iraq's people for more than five years, as well as Iraq's efforts to meet its obligations toward the UN Security Council resolutions and its cooperation with the Security Council's Special Commission.

The delegation will meet several Iraqi officials and the heads of international organizations operating in Iraq. It will also conduct field visits to hospitals in Baghdad and other governorates to acquaint itself with the suffering of the Iraqi people and the acute shortage of food and medicine as a result of the continued blockade.

In a statement to the correspondent of the IRAQI NEWS AGENCY, the head of the delegation said that his visit to Iraq was approved by the French Government.

Iranian Mediation Among Kurdish Groups Said 'Failed'

NC1301103196 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0740 GMT 13 Jan 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 13 Jan (MENA)—AL-AHRAM cites an independent Iraqi Kurdish source as stressing that Iran's efforts to reconcile the two main Kurdish parties in northern Iraq, the Jalal Talabani-led Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK] and the Mas'ud

Barzani-led Kurdistan Democratic Party [KDP], have failed.

The source, which requested anonymity, said the Iranian delegation, which ended a visit to the Kurdish region Thursday [11 January], failed to convince the two Kurdish parties to sign a peace agreement that would permanently end the conflict in Iraqi Kurdistan.

The delegation, consisting of 47 members, was headed by 'Ali Aqa-Mohammadi, the official in charge of Iraq's affairs in the Iranian Government. The source said Iran had tried to mediate after recent U.S.-sponsored peace efforts reached a deadlock. The Iranians wanted to prove to the Americans that they still enjoy strong influence in the Kurdish region and that U.S. attempts to curb this influence would not succeed.

When the Iranian delegation found that the two Kurdish parties were not willing to deal directly with the Iranian peace initiative for Iraqi Kurdistan, the source said, it switched to discussions of bilateral relations and economic issues.

The source said the Iranians have no clear vision for peace in the Kurdish region. They are governed by several principles, most important among them being their fear of U.S. attempts to besiege Iran in the Gulf. Therefore, they are trying to entrench their influence in the Kurdish region. The Iranians also fear Turkish influence, especially after a recent visit to Ankara by a PUK delegation.

Regarding the U.S. initiative, the source said: The two Kurdish parties generally agree on giving the initiative a chance to succeed. The U.S. plan calls for reforming the regional Kurdish government on a broad basis that includes all sides, returning regional revenues to a nonpartisan committee, moving all armed men out of Irbil and its outskirts, and determining ways and legal methods for holding a dialogue and resolving differences.

INA Editor 'Ridicules' U.S. Commander's Statements

JN1601192696 Baghdad Iraq Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 16 Jan 96

[Announcer-read report]

[FBIS Translated Text] The political editor of the IRAQI NEWS AGENCY has ridiculed statements made by Admiral Scott Reed, commander of the U.S. fleet in the Arabian Gulf region, alleging that Iraq still poses a threat to its neighbors five years after the 30-state aggression against it.

The political editor of the IRAQI NEWS AGENCY said that the Iraqi Army and people are a genuine support for the Arab nation and that Iraq has proved to be the principal defender of the interests of the Arab countries throughout history by protecting our Arab people from harm.

He said that the real threat to the Arabian Gulf region comes from the presence of foreign fleets in its waters, including the U.S. fleets, whose presence is in line with the U.S. Administration's plan to plunder the region's wealth, particularly the oil wealth, which was the real reason for the unjust 30-state aggression against Iraq.

The political editor stressed that such hostile statements are basically aimed at prolonging the five-year long blockade imposed on Iraq, although Iraq has met its obligations toward the unjust Security Council's resolutions. The statements, he added, are also aimed at blackmailing the region's states by arousing fears of Iraq, especially since several states in the region have called through their officials for lifting the unjust blockade and returning to Arab solidarity, stressing the importance of Iraq's role in achieving that solidarity.

Concluding his comment, the political editor of the IRAQI NEWS AGENCY said that Iraq under leader President Saddam Husayn, may God preserve him, has been eager to maintain stability in the region by preventing foreign interference in order to serve the interests of the sons of the Arab nation in the Arabian Gulf.

Embezzlement in Government Institutions Viewed
96LH0025A Baghdad ALIF BA' in Arabic 4 Oct 95
pp 16-19

[Report on interview with Hikmat Mizabban al-Azzawi, chairman of the Fiscal Control Bureau, by Siham al-Shujayri; place and date not given: "Public Money: Is It in Safe Hands; 500 Million Dinars in Banking Embezzlement; Where Did Truck Loaded With Fat From al-Haswah Warehouses Disappear; Oldsmobile Sedan for Just 125,000 Dinars; Smart Theft and Embezzlement Methods"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Public money thieves are found in all governmental and semi-governmental organizations at all times. They do nothing specific other than to devise new ways to defraud and steal. This has become a tenacious disease, like a self-regenerating virus afflicting the weak-willed. Conditions are not confined to this type of corruption but have developed greatly: vast sums of money; equipment and machinery; cars; foodstuffs; and so forth; or perhaps an intentional typing mistake that costs millions of dollars that goes to these people's pockets.

Is public money in safe hands? What is the financial control's opinion of the phenomenon of lack of concern for public money? What are the gaps through which this money escapes and how are public money thieves punished?

To start, one must note the observation Leader President Saddam Husayn underlined when he chaired the Council of Ministers' 29th session in August 1995. He said, "We must give the idea of concern for public money a great deal of our attention. The people concerned, led by the minister, must ascertain the safety of assets, including machinery, equipment, vehicles, and other materials, and the means to store, keep, use, and maintain them. Special attention must be given to enlightening workers and stirring their patriotic and job enthusiasm to take care of these assets and to restore whatever part of them is damaged or classified as out of service."

A draft decree was submitted to the Council of Ministers' 34th session to protect state property.

Series of Violations

Before we embark on the details, we stress that these lines are not just for mere incitement and that they contain no exaggeration. They are the truth, as certified by Fiscal Control Agency documents and confirmed by security and judiciary investigations and by thousands of memoranda and documents which adorn the dossiers of the people involved.

We have turned over with Ihsan Karim al-Ghazi, the general director of financing and distribution at the Fiscal Control Bureau, the leaves of the dossiers of ministries where there has been fraud against public money and we have recorded some of these incidents. We begin our review of these incidents with reports disclosed by the control bureau. The incidents involve high-ranking officials, almost top administrative officials, of numerous agencies and organizations who have committed a series of legal violations ranging from embezzlement, fraud, and illicit profit from job position to squandering public money. The violations have gone even further, buying other people's conscience so they will remain silent. By leafing through the ministries' dossiers, we have noted the following:

- Some establishments have been given numerous loans for large sums exceeding billions of dinars [D] to complete some works and projects. However, it has not been determined what the cost of the projects is and whether all the money has been spent for the stated purposes. Why? Because these establishments have not submitted the legal vouchers and documents that confirm actual disburse-

ment. The loan surms continue to be deferred in the records of the Ministry of Finance.

- A ministry wishes to increase its spending but there are no appropriations for it in the general budget. Instead of following the legal procedures and getting approval for increased appropriations, the ministry resorts to pressuring the companies under its control to repay some maintenance costs or allowances given to employees. In just one ministry, such expenditures exceeded more than D25 million in 1994.
- Another ministry pressures the companies it controls to purchase sedan cars to be used for private offices in violation of the law and of directives.
- The phenomenon of varied means of transportation assigned and allocated to private offices and increased personal use of government transportation means in violation of directives.
- A third ministry sells a number of new state-owned sedans to its workers at low prices (i.e. at estimated prices) in violation of law No. 32 of 1986 on the sale of government property. For example, an Oldsmobile sedan was sold on 9 October 1994 for a sum of just D125,000.
- A bank branch guard steals an air conditioner's compressor and the bank goes without any air conditioning. The guard is referred to the judiciary, confesses to his crime, and receives his just punishment.
- Some bank clients who had no provisions in their accounts drew, for a specific period of time, checks against their accounts in collusion with some bank employees. The clients then repaid only a part of the drawn sums in well-studied technical ways. The total of such sums discovered for 1994 amounted to more than D500 million. A number of the people responsible for these acts were referred to the courts and most of the sums have been recovered.
- At the end of the official workday, a person deposits in his bank account at one of the banks a sum of D80,000 and it is entered, through collusion with some bank officials, as D800,000, which the depositor then withdraws the next morning and flees the country.
- Some Public Tax Authority officials have colluded with some taxpayers to enable them to evade tax payment by giving such taxpayers, for example, repeated full tax exemption in violation of the law for sold real estate property. In some specific cases, the tax collectable amounted to nearly D500,000. In other cases, the tax officials did not calculate some tax requirements. The estimated tax

in specific cases in just one branch amounted to nearly D6 million.

- Some Land Register Bureau officials have collaborated with real estate agents by forging the seals of some branches of the Public Tax Authority. Unpaid taxes resulting from this forgery have been estimated at D130 million. The issue has been referred to the judiciary.
- Flour mill owners have cheated in the quantities of flour and bran produced for distribution by ration card. In detected cases, the Ministry of Commerce has recovered the money for the quantities involved at the commercial prices, amounting to nearly D150 million. Owners have also cheated in the quantities of rice produced in mills. The value of the quantities involved in the cheating and discovered by the Ministry of Commerce agencies has amounted in current prices to nearly D548 million.
- Workers at the Public Grain Trade Company Warehouses have manipulated rice quantities in Dhi Qar, where there has been a shortfall of 6,224 sacks.
- A recurrent and imaginary disbursal of ration shares to ration cards belonging to some employees of the Central Markets Company. Such cases have exceeded 25,000 in Baghdad alone. The company has fined a number of its officials.
- Loss of a truck loaded with fat while on its from al-Haswah warehouse to the Public Foodstuffs Trading Company stores.
- A government ministry purchases paper at symbolic [subsidized] prices from a government agency. The ministry receives 25 items but agency records them as 250 items.
- vehicle lubricants and oils have been taken out of warehouses on the pretext of being supplied to government agencies. However, the fact is that not all quantities taken out have been received by these agencies.

Concern...Measures

The list is long, and pages and more pages are needed to transmit the important information in the dossiers. Perhaps we would not be exaggerating if we said that the endeavors made by watchful eyes have been able to uncover a few of the means of fraud against public money. What is concealed is worse.

Having examined what has happened in the ministries, we have had to point out that public money is the outcome of society's effort, embodied in accumulated financial and economic assets. Government institutions act on behalf of society to manage this money in accordance with laws, regulations, plans, and policies

that aim at the proper and legal management of the money and at reaping the best yield from it for society. Therefore, the more compatible is public money management with the laws regulating it, the more secure and the safer is the course that this money takes. The Fiscal Control Bureau's task is to act on behalf of the top state agencies to control financial conduct in accordance with the established official laws, policies, and goals. The bureau is not content with the outward application of these laws but follows up to ensure application of the formulas for best performance and best yield. The bureau reflects this in the performance-correction methods it applies to all central financing state establishments. The bureau also applies these methods to the companies and corporations in which the state is a partner, embodied in the joint sector.

So, what is the Fiscal Control Bureau's opinion of the phenomenon of lack of concern for public money?

This is the question with which we started our interview with Hikmat Mizabban al-'Azzawi, the Fiscal Control Bureau chief. He answered, "It is normal that public money theft would be an extraordinary condition which society experiences in case of war or under the circumstance our beloved country is experiencing as a result of the strain of the tyrannical blockade. It is normal that such a circumstance would be accompanied by abnormal phenomena which are produced by the circumstance itself and which are not truly characteristic of the society. Therefore, we must not be surprised and must not become pessimistic because of some unacceptable fraud against public money by a small number of people whose souls condone illicit use of the money with which they are entrusted. Embezzlement, forgery, and fraud cases have surfaced in state agencies here and there. However, the leadership's careful watch of the government march and of the phenomena that engulf this march has been the reason why these cases have been diagnosed and dealt with early in an educational manner on the one hand and in a deterrent manner on the other. The Fiscal Control Bureau's task is embodied here in watching public spending. Without being restricted by time, the bureau follows up to ensure that there is legal and fiscal compliance in spending."

[Al-Shujayri] What do you mean by fiscal "compliance?"

[Azzawi] It means that centrally allocated appropriations are not exceeded. Therefore, control's task continues and does not expire with time. In some cases, it is possible to revive fiscal violations over which 10 or more years have lapsed. The observations we have compiled over this period are that most of the violations committed are due to the shortsightedness of the indi-

viduals involved. These individuals thought that in case of embezzlement or of forgery, the issue ends as soon as the proceeds of this violation are collected and that the violation would end at the time it is committed, but the fiscal control agencies possess technical auditing means and relations which they have with society's members. With intersecting control formulae, these agencies can detect the most serious violations and the most careful methods of embezzlement or forgery which lead to the misappropriation of public money. This is why last year, for example, control activities resulted in seizing considerable sums of money and uncovered methods that were truly smart, but still shortsighted.

[Al-Shujayri] What, in your opinion, are the gaps through which public money seeps away?

[Azzawi] The avenues through which low characters can infiltrate to achieve illicit goals are definitely connected with two areas: first, the degree of an employee's weakness or immunity in the face of external inducements connected with his public money management responsibility or jurisdiction. The second area concerns the external beneficiary who tries to profit at the expense of society's money. Money is not restricted to just cash or fixed assets but covers all of society's movable and immovable assets, cash, and obligations that entail the payment of their value at a later time. Therefore, methods vary according to the variety of money. We find that violations begin with the theft of small assets of little value, such as electric or sanitary fittings in an establishment, and culminate with the theft of tens of millions.

[Al-Shujayri] In which ministries do violations against public money occur most frequently?

[Azzawi] Most frequently in banks and in the Ministry of Industry.

[Al-Shujayri] Are these violations discovered by other agencies or by your agency only?

[Azzawi] Our agency is one of the control channels. We have the security agencies, the popular control agencies, the party agency, and the internal agencies in the various departments and ministries. Cases may be reported through letters sent by mail or through direct personal complaints. Such cases range from 5 percent-10 percent. They are discovered by individual initiatives on the part of the people or the employees themselves.

[Al-Shujayri] What about the accounting agencies of the departments concerned?

[Azzawi] In some cases, the accounting agencies of the departments concerned discover a case of spending ordered illegally by the official concerned. The accountant

is compelled in this case to issue the money for spending, but often, the fiscal control agencies are notified. Subsequently, we follow up on the case and record the confessions legally.

[Al-Shujayri] Are the courts considering any public money theft cases from the ministries that are under observation?

[Azzawi] Fundamentally, the Fiscal Control Bureau's measures seek to help the administrative agencies, each according to its specialization, in the area of expenditure legality. However, the bureau's measures escalate from notifying the authority concerned with the legal violation to dealing with the violation. If the case dictates it, escalating measures are taken, including notification of higher official levels, all the way up to the presidential office. In some cases, we demand that the case involved be investigated and referred to the courts. Our task continues to be to follow up on these measures in order to ascertain that public money is returned to its normal channels.

[Al-Shujayri] What percentage of public money is recovered when a theft is discovered?

[Azzawi] A large percentage is recovered. (Such a percentage cannot be recovered from a thief sentenced to death because he disposes of the money?).

[Al-Shujayri] At what job levels are the people involved?

[Azzawi] High-ranking officials who may hold leadership-level jobs in the government.

[Al-Shujayri] We find that most socialist sector products are available in the markets and displayed on sidewalks in large quantities. In your opinion, from where do these products escape?

[Azzawi] Socialist sector products are either industrial or agricultural products. Some of the industrial products are subject to controls and others can be circulated freely. Goods governed by controls, such as tires, batteries, cigarettes, construction materials, and vehicles of all types, are supposed to be controlled by administrative controls and measures that seek to dispense products to those who deserve them. However, some employees swerve from these controls at times for personal profit and are given cover by administrators who also have an interest in this escape. This creates the phenomenon of the circulation of some regulated products by some people. In the case of some goods, the beneficiary is entitled to enjoy their value by selling them as a "personal ration" and buying others goods which are of a higher priority to him. For example, a beneficiary may be enti-

tled to a cigarettes ration which he does not smoke. Naturally, this beneficiary sells the cigarettes to buy some other product. The same goes for dairy products and other goods. This is legitimate and there is no objection to it. However, it could be a part of the phenomenon of the availability of regulated goods which are circulated in the markets in abundance. Most of these goods are industrial and agricultural sector products, of course.

[Al-Shujayri] Do you have enough personnel in your cadre to meet control needs?

[Azzawi] Certainly not. The arena under our control is big and it includes all the ministries, their organizations and corporations, joint sector companies, cooperatives, federations, unions, and popular organizations.

[Al-Shujayri] Can you guarantee that control officials are honest in following up on this phenomenon?

[Azzawi] Not completely. However, what makes us more optimistic is that his excellency the leader president, may God keep him strong, issued recently a decree expanding the control bureau's task to include all state agencies. This means that many organizations which had enjoyed exemptions from control have now been subjected to control tasks in accordance with his excellency's decree. The gesture by his excellency the president honoring the control bureau officials and granting them privileges has been an incentive to them to examine cases deeply and accurately and to make accomplishments. This has also given them the incentive to make the bureau worthy of the leadership's confidence. The current resources are not enough to accomplish these goals up to the level of the desired aspiration. However, the leader president has given this bureau his honorable care and has secured for it the requirements to attract the technical human expertise that is capable to help it perform its task in the best manner and in the shortest time, God willing.

[Al-Shujayri] What about the tax evasion phenomenon?

[Azzawi] This condition is not, of course, just an Iraqi condition but rather a general international condition. It is summed up in that the taxpayer always tries, legally and illegally, to evade the payment of his obligations. In this regard, the taxpayer resorts to a number of ways and means to conceal or falsify the facts or the documents in order to achieve this evasion. In addition to the agencies directly in charge, such as the Public Tax Authority, the Fiscal Control Bureau is also concerned with following up on the collection of public money. If the control agencies discover through their audit activities information beneficial to the agencies concerned in following up on tax collection, then they supply this information to help accomplish this task.

[Al-Shujayri] We have heard that a large part of the tax evasion is done through collusion with officials. What is your comment?

[Azzawi] Yes, some tax employees collude with taxpayers. This is why his excellency the leader president has granted officials, especially those who follow up on the collection of money and the detection of tax evasion, material and moral rewards and incentives. His excellency has exclusively granted them generous and effective awards and incentives. I expect that these incentives will have a positive impact on curtailing the collusion phenomenon and on motivating this agency's officials.

[Al-Shujayri] Is the Fiscal Control Bureau entitled to refer embezzlers to the courts directly or does it try them through a its own committee or special court?

[Azzawi] The current Fiscal Control Bureau law, i.e. law No. 6 of 1990, lacks judiciary jurisdiction. Its role is confined to auditing and asking the ministers to refer cases to the courts. The previous law, issued in 1968, gave the bureau some judiciary jurisdiction to refer suspects to the courts directly, in addition to the power to suspend officials accused of tampering with public money. My opinion is that some judiciary jurisdiction is necessary for the bureau, especially under the current circumstances.

Reward and Punishment

[Al-Shujayri] Perhaps the question that must be asked is: What are the means to curb administrative corruption

and the phenomenon of lack of concern for public money?

[Azzawi] We can assert that the adoption of firm and immediate deterrent measures against the negligent and against those who violate the law, regardless of their job positions, plus enhancement of the role of the internal audit agencies and education in this connection, are the solution.

I leave the reader a bitter smile and I content myself with recounting what one official told me. This official said that he went to visit the general director of a certain department and was compelled to use the lavatories while he was there. He saw six faucets, but only one had its tap on. He went back to tease the director, asking him about the other taps. The director immediately opened his desk drawers and took out the other taps from them, explaining that taps had been stolen repeatedly and that because of the cost, he found that the solution was to keep them in his office.

Even though tap theft is not serious, it still falls within the framework of corruption. A single worm could damage all of the world's apples. All we have to do is raise the red slip in the face of the snowball so it will not grow and get bigger.

The solution is have more control and not to allow public money to go unguarded. Whoever said "unguarded property teaches theft" has told the truth.

Peres: No Intervention in Syrian-Turkish Dispute*TA1201115996 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
1100 GMT 12 Jan 96*

[FBIS Translated Text] Israel will not intervene in the Syrian-Turkish water dispute, Prime Minister Shim'on Peres told the Turkish Deputy Foreign Minister Onur Oymen, who is visiting Israel.

Our political correspondent Udi Segal reports that Peres said that, with regard to the water issue, Syria is using against Turkey the same charges Israel is using against Syria. The Turkish deputy minister said that there has not been any change in Turkish foreign policy toward Israel following the elections.

Intelligence Chief Views Syria, PA Performance*TA1601163596 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
1500 GMT 16 Jan 96*

[FBIS Translated Text] Chief of Intelligence Major General Moshe Ya'alon said today that Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad views normalization and economic cooperation with Israel as a threat to his regime. Ya'alon told the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee it is the Syrians who set the pace of the negotiations and they are in no rush. Referring to the Palestinian issue, he said the Palestinian Authority [PA] has so far done nothing to eliminate the infrastructure of the terrorist organizations. Our Knesset correspondent Hadar Vismonsky reports:

[Vismonsky] The political picture presented by Gen. Ya'alon today was a cold shower to the optimists. The Syrian president regards normalization and economic cooperation with Israel as a sort of threat to his regime. He is afraid of an Israeli economic takeover of Syria and of the democracy that the normalization in relations will bring, he said.

Gen. Ya'alon said it is the Syrians who set the pace of the negotiations with Israel, and they are in no hurry. Syria will insist that at the very beginning of the process Israel commit itself to a full withdrawal from the Golan Heights to the 1967 borders. It will not agree to any Israeli foothold on the Golan, neither military nor in terms of settlements. Nevertheless, the chief of intelligence said, on the water issue there is something to talk about from the Syrian point of view.

According to him, the Syrian goal is full and uncompromising sovereignty over the Golan, relations with the United States, and legitimizing their presence in Lebanon. In this context, Ya'alon explained that Syria could rein in the terror in south Lebanon if only it wanted to. Summing up the Syria issue, Ya'alon said there is no real opposition to the peace process in Syria.

As for the Palestinians, Ya'alon told the committee that the rejectionist organizations will step up their activities until the Knesset elections in Israel. The general both flattered the PA, and attacked its leaders. On the one hand, Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] is today in a weak position, thanks in part to the PA's actions, but on the other hand the PA has done nothing to deal with the infrastructure of the terror organizations. The possibility should not be ruled out that 'Arafat is seeking to preserve this situation until discussions start on the permanent arrangement, Ya'alon concluded.

Netanyahu, Gore Discuss Position on Oslo Accord*TA1701114596 Tel Aviv DAVAR RISHON in Hebrew
17 Jan 96 p 1*

[Report by Arye Dayan]

[FBIS Translated Text] Likud Chairman Binyamin Netanyahu told U.S. Vice President Al Gore that a government led by him would conduct negotiations about the permanent arrangement with the Palestinians, as stipulated in the Oslo accords. Netanyahu added that his government would propose to make permanent the current situation in the territories, following the implementation of the interim agreement.

The meeting between Gore and Netanyahu was held two nights ago in the Knesset building in Jerusalem. At Gore's request, it focused on the Likud's position about the Oslo accords. Netanyahu told Gore that the Likud believes "the Oslo agreement is a bad agreement," but that his government would "not reoccupy the cities that have already been handed over to the Palestinians." Netanyahu explained his position whereby "the process should be stopped at the point it is now." Netanyahu intends to turn those areas in the West Bank that have not yet been handed over to Palestinian control into what he called "Israeli security zones," which would remain under Israeli rule and would prevent the establishment of a Palestinian state.

"Facts are facts," Netanyahu said, "we will not go back, but we will not advance either." He further told Gore that a Likud-led government would hold contacts with the Palestinians and would even enter negotiations with them about the permanent arrangement.

Beilin Urges Changing Status Quo on Jerusalem*TA1701104896 Tel Aviv DAVAR RISHON in Hebrew
17 Jan 96 pp 1, 2*

[Report by Arye Dayan, Yosi Torpstein, and Uri Rodriguez-Garcia]

[FBIS Translated Text] Israelis and Palestinians have been holding talks in Europe about Jerusalem's per-

manent status, Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert told Qol Yisra'el yesterday.

According to Olmert, the negotiations are being conducted on behalf of Israel by Dr. Ron Pundak and Dr. Ya'ir Hirschfeld, who were involved in the talks that led to the Oslo agreement; Minister Yosi Beilin is in charge of the issue on behalf of the government; and Faysal al-Husayni, the Palestinian Authority official in charge of the Jerusalem portfolio, represents the Palestinian side.

According to the mayor, the two sides have been working on the formulation of principles for the negotiations on Jerusalem.

Minister Yosi Beilin said yesterday that Israel should enter negotiations with the Palestinians about Jerusalem "so that they recognize it as Israel's capital." Addressing an AIPAC [American Israel Public Affairs Committee] delegation in Jerusalem, Beilin rejected the argument that Israel should preserve the status quo on the issue of Jerusalem.

"The real meaning of preserving the status quo is that Israel does not have a recognized capital. We must discuss the issue with the Palestinians so that they recognize Jerusalem as the capital of Israel. If that happens, then the whole world will recognize it," Beilin stated.

Beilin abstained from commenting on Olmert's allegations. His associates said Olmert's remarks were "inaccurate," but confirmed the fact that Hirschfeld and Pundak have been meeting Palestinian figures in academic conventions where the question of Jerusalem is being discussed. "An academic seminar on Jerusalem does not mean negotiations on Jerusalem," the associates said.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el Hebrew at 0900 GMT on 17 January reports that addressing the Knesset Internal Affairs and Environment Committee today, Public Security Minister Moshe Shahal said "he knows nothing about negotiations being conducted by lecturers Ron Pundak and Ya'ir Hirschfeld on behalf of Minister Yosi Beilin with Palestinian Authority representatives on the principles of a permanent settlement on Jerusalem. Reacting to Mayor Ehud Olmert's remarks, Shahal said that he plans to look into the issue, expressed the hope that there is no official mission on the Jerusalem issue, and noted that he firmly opposes such negotiations."]

In an interview with DAVAR RISHON, al-Husayni confirmed that he and his men have been holding contacts about the status of Jerusalem with Israeli figures, not only with coalition representatives but also with Likud figures.

He explained that the contacts with Likud figures took place recently, but refused to give their names. Palestinian sources in Jerusalem confirmed that Minister Beilin is involved in the contacts and that such meetings have been held.

Al-Husayni detailed for us the Palestinian position on the permanent status of Jerusalem, which will apparently be presented in the negotiations on the permanent arrangement. According to him, Jerusalem must remain an open city without any physical divisions, but it should contain two capitals, one for Israel and one for the Palestinians.

The way he sees it, free construction should be permitted throughout the city, both in the western and eastern parts. He said he was not demanding the return of areas and buildings that were owned by Arabs until 1948, but to build Palestinian neighborhoods alongside Jewish ones in the western part of the city as well. This will ensure a geographic and demographic balance between the two populations, as well as equality in the services rendered to them. In his opinion, such a balance will ensure peaceful relations.

Al-Husayni added that the city should be granted special status, whereby Israelis wishing to exit it from the Palestinian side would present their documents at a Palestinian roadblock, while Palestinians seeking to exit the city from the Israeli side would present their documents at an Israeli roadblock. He added that a joint umbrella municipality could be established that would oversee two separate municipalities.

Al-Husayni rejected the possibility of splitting the debate on Jerusalem between the political and religious sphere.

Uri Rodriguez-Garcia adds: Al-Husayni stated yesterday that he intends to exert political pressure to prevent the construction of a Jewish neighborhood in Ra's al-'Amud.

The Interior Ministry plans to build a Jewish neighborhood in the heart of the Arab neighborhood of Ra's al-'Amud. The 1,800 housing units planned on the site would be surrounded by a high wall to protect the Jewish residents from their Arab neighbors. Earlier this week al-Husayni met Jerusalem councilman Ornan Yequti'eli, and promised to get 'Arafat involved in the issue.

2 Soldiers Killed in 'Terrorist' Attack Near Hebron
TA1701052096 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew
0500 GMT 17 Jan 96

[FBIS Translated Text] An officer and a soldier were killed in the terrorist attack last night on the way to

Hebron. The soldier is Sergeant Yaniv Shimel, 20, from Jerusalem. The officer's family has been notified.

The officer and the soldier were hit last night as they were driving in their military vehicle from Hebron to Jerusalem. Between Halhul and al-'Arrub they were overtaken by a Mercedes from which several shots were fired. The assailants fled and searches in the area did not yield any results.

A curfew has been imposed on Halhul, the al-'Arrub refugee camp, and the villages of Bayt Immar, Si'ir, and al-Shuyukh.

Political circles in Jerusalem said last night that preparations for the elections in the territories will continue as planned, despite the deep acrimony felt in Israel due to the attack on the way to Hebron.

Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that political and security circles have been cautioning the Palestinian Authority in recent days to step up their alertness and to deal more thoroughly with the alerts about terrorist attacks.

Hebron Mayor Mustafa al-Natshah condemned the attack. He told our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem that Yasir 'Arafat was outraged when he heard about the attack.

Likud: 'Arafat Encouraging Attacks

TA1701054996 *Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English*
0500 GMT 17 Jan 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Likud says the attack near Hebron is Yasir 'Arafat's reaction to the law for implementing the second stage of the Oslo agreement. A statement by the Likud Knesset faction charged 'Arafat with encouraging such attacks in order to obtain more concessions from Israel.

Knesset Member Yitzhaq Levi of the National Religious Party said that Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] did not have enough patience to wait until Saturday [20 January, the date of the Palestinian elections] in order to resume its terrorist attacks.

Ahmad al-Tibi says the attack near Hebron was carried out by the enemies of the peace process and the process of democratization of the Palestinian people. Al-Tibi, an adviser to Yasir 'Arafat, said the attack was designed to damage the Palestinian Authority. The commander of the Palestinian police in the Hebron area, Fayiz Ziyad, has condemned the attack. He said the attack was an attempt to disrupt the elections and that it is in the interests of both the Israelis and Palestinians to prevent this from happening.

Peres Comments on Attack

TA1701083796 *Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew*
0800 GMT 17 Jan 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] spokesman has released the name of the officer killed in the shooting attack in the Hebron area. He is Major 'Oz Tibon, 29, of Jerusalem, who served as an army doctor. [passage omitted]

Prime Minister Shim'on Peres responded to the attack by saying that there are still Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and Islamic Jihad squads trying to harm people and destroy the peace process. Peres said Israel would fight these bands with all its might; he also expects the Palestinian Authority to act with the necessary resolution. In response to a question by our military correspondent Shlomo Raz whether the attack would have an impact on the elections in the territories and the continued implementation of the interim agreement, Peres said Israel would not allow such groups to decide if there would be elections.

On another matter, Peres said Israel would not ignore the order issued by a Lebanese court against SLA [South Lebanese Army] commander Antoine Lahd and said it is a deliberate humiliation.

Labor, Meretz, Likud Agree on Early Elections

TA1601140796 *Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew*
1300 GMT 16 Jan 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The heads of the coalition agreed with the chairman of the Likud Knesset faction that if realistic conditions emerge in the future for bringing the elections forward, representatives of Labor, Meretz, and the Likud will discuss the formulation of a joint draft bill. This was reported by our Knesset correspondent.

Nevertheless, it transpired in the meeting that the Likud will vote tomorrow in favor of Tzomet's bill to bring the elections forward, while the coalition will vote against it. Our correspondent reports that the meeting was attended by Ra'anan Kohen and Ran Kohen on behalf of the coalition, and by Moshe Qatzav on behalf of the Likud.

Our party affairs correspondent Yaron Degel reports that United Torah Jewry [UTJ] will vote against Tzomet's bill tomorrow. Knesset member Avraham Ravitz explained that UTJ in principle believes that the elections should be brought forward, but not to the date suggested by Tzomet. He said that yeshiva students are still in school in June, and it would be better to hold the elections in August, toward the end of the school vacation.

Our Knesset correspondent notes that the National Religious Party is considering the possibility of giving its members freedom to vote as they please.

Knesset Rejects Tzomet Bill on Early Elections

TA1701111796 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew
1100 GMT 17 Jan 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The Knesset rejected by 52 to 31 Tzomet leader Refa'el Eytan's bill to disband the House and hold early elections. Five Knesset members abstained. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that Minister Moshe Shahal suggested introducing a rule that if the Knesset decides on early elections in the future, they will be held within six weeks.

Knesset Approves Interim Agreement Bill

TA1701113696 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST
in English 17 Jan 96 pp 1, 9

[Report by Liat Collins]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] By a vote of 48 to 44, with one abstention, the Knesset last night approved on third reading the Oslo 2 implementation bill, which will allow Arab residents of East Jerusalem to vote in Saturday's [20 January] Palestinian elections. 'Imanu'el Zismann (Labor) abstained.

The vote came at the end of a marathon debate in which Likud MKs [Knesset member] "took over" the plenum for two days. Last week, the coalition agreed to allow the opposition 26 hours in which to express its reservations on the bill, in return for an opposition promise not to file a no-confidence motion which could delay the bill's passage.

The opposition had been threatening to use as many parliamentary maneuvers as possible to delay the bill and disrupt the elections.

Forty-six of yesterday's 47 speakers were opposition MKs, including some who rarely address the plenum, such as Yitzhaq Shamir, Moshe Nisim, and Ari'el Sharon. Only Law Committee chairman Dedi Zucker (Meretz) and Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee chairman Hagay Merom spoke for the coalition. Zucker accused the Likud of "being like those Japanese soldiers who don't know the war is over. The PLO is not the same PLO. Nothing is the same any more."

Jerusalem Mayor MK Ehud Olmert (Likud) also criticized his own party for underestimating the threat to the capital. "It's the first time the Likud is speaking in understatement. The Likud is speaking with a tone of restraint which does not fit the seriousness of the facts. The matter of Jerusalem is not some threat in the future; it's now. Every day, political facts are being

created on the ground which will turn the negotiations on Jerusalem's future into something technical, almost meaningless."

Likud leader Binyamin Netanyahu called on opponents of the elections not to take the law into their own hands and not to engage in violence. "We will carry out the turnabout which will allow the preservation of Jerusalem's unity only through the ballot box and legitimate information and protest campaigns."

He said the elections would mark the start of the redivision of the city, and promised that when the Likud returns to power it will close Orient House.

Sharon said Gaza had become a huge store for weapons, which are being transferred from there from Judaea and Samaria. He also said a Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] base had been discovered by accident in the Negev.

"Arafat is declaring a Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital, and Israel says nothing. This bill is absurd and proves that this is a weak government that should not be allowed to carry out diplomatic negotiations," Sharon said.

Peres Seen of Two Minds About Early Elections

TA1601151996 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew
1 Jan 96 p B1

[Commentary by Yo'el Marcus: "Peres A, Peres B"]

[FBIS Translated Text] I am beginning to think that Shim'on Peres has a twin. This is because one Peres sees no reason why the elections should not be held as scheduled, in October 1996, while the other Peres "is considering" holding them in June. It is no coincidence that there is hardly a single person in Labor's top echelon today who can authoritatively say if the elections will or will not be brought forward. Either there are two Pereses or there is one Peres with two different opinions.

For example, yours truly can herewith attest that with his own ears he heard Peres say on 20 December that he does not plan to bring the elections forward, not even by one day. However, 10 days later, yours truly heard the exact opposite from "Peres' associates": that he is actually considering the possibility of bringing the elections forward. If "Peres' associates" and yours truly spoke with the same person — rather than the former with the original Peres and the latter with his twin — the question that arises is: What happened in those 10 days to justify the about-face on early elections?

The first possibility that comes to mind is the Syrian connection. Anyone checking the date that Peres started

to "consider" early elections and the deadline for his final decision (15 February), will find that the dates miraculously coincide with the two rounds of talks with the Syrians and with Christopher's two trips to the region. The second round of talks in Maryland is supposed to be wrapped up at the end of January, while Christopher's second trip will take place in the first part of February; in other words, very close to the deadline for Peres' final decision on whether to bring elections forward. It is not clear if ceding the Golan Heights in exchange for the kind of peace that al-Asad can give us is as big an asset as Peres thinks it is, but it is legitimate to see peace with Syria as an excuse to go to the polls in June. Elections instead of a referendum, as it were.

However, if the talk about early elections was a tactical ploy to pressure al-Asad, then it did not succeed. The Maryland talks were a total disappointment and a breakthrough with Syria remains as remote as ever. Peres will not have the kind of partner he envisioned at his side — along with another 21 Arab heads of state — by June and perhaps not even by October. Al-Asad has his own list of priorities, and Peres' electoral considerations are obviously not on the top of that list. On the contrary, al-Asad may first want to see who he will be dealing with in the next four years and perhaps he is also hoping that an administration will come to power in the United States that is less hooked on Israel than Clinton's and more inclined to pressure it.

Without the Syrian excuse, the question of early elections becomes one of political gain or loss. Indeed, quite a few Labor functionaries and associates of Peres are hot on the idea of early elections. They think it is better to strike while the iron is hot and that advantage must be taken of the conjuncture created in the wake of Rabin's assassination: the decline in the right wing's popularity and the awakening of youths, particularly first-time voters. Election experts claim that the Likud is in big trouble due to David Levi's split on the one hand, and the loss of election wizards such as David Magen and Moshe Nisim, and the unlikelihood of Ehud Olmert and Roni Milo helping anoint Netanyahu on the other. All these may give Peres an advantage in June, which could very well vanish if he waits until October.

These practical arguments are being challenged by two Pereses. The first Peres has been yearning, from the day he became prime minister, to win a mandate on his own merit for the first time in his life. As time goes by he appears more and more impatient when referred to as "Rabin's successor," as someone who got to the top by accident and who is committed to the pursuit of "Rabin's legacy." There is no doubt that being elected prime minister in direct elections, which by law will accord him a status no other prime minister has ever had

before, appeals to him. Even a blind man can see that he is quietly trying to enlist voters from circles and camps outside Labor to vote for him. This Peres is confronted by the second Peres, who despite his qualifications and record has always seen the promised land from afar, and brought the Likud to power five times (in 1977, 1981, 1984, 1988, and 1990). What kind of end to his career will it be if he loses once again, and this time because of the trick of bringing elections forward?

The two Pereses face a real dilemma. The first Peres, the one who is having a hard time making up his mind, is right because it is really not clear how the public will react to the poorly justified early elections ploy. The second Peres is also right in wanting to win a mandate on his own merit. As an ordinary voter (or as his double) I prefer the second Peres, the one who is prepared to take a chance and seek the people's confidence for what he really stands for. The Syrian consideration is truly irrelevant. Not just because al-Asad — pardon my language — is not the big deal Peres thinks he is, but because we are not choosing the president of Syria; we are choosing the prime minister of Israel.

Transportation Agreement Signed With Jordan

TA1601150796 *Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew*
1300 GMT 16 Jan 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Israel and Jordan signed a transportation agreement regulating issues such as the entry of private vehicles into both countries. Our correspondent Ilan Ro'e reports that the agreement on private vehicles will go into effect in a month, buses will be allowed to cross a month later, and trucks carrying goods will follow in another three months. The agreement was signed by the transportation ministers of Israel and Jordan at Bet Gavri'el on the shores of Lake Tiberias.

Shamgar Commission Releases Assassin's Testimony

TA1601173996 *Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew*
1500 GMT 16 Jan 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Yig'al 'Amir claims he did not mean to kill Yitzhaq Rabin, just paralyze him. He further argues that it was a Shin Bet bodyguard who shouted that the bullets were blanks after the shooting and that very weird things happened there. 'Amir made these remarks to Shamgar Commission investigators in a 100-page deposition they took from him. In an extraordinary move, the members of the Shamgar Commission acceded today to IDF [Israeli Defense Forces] Radio's request to publish the transcript of the deposition. Our legal affairs correspondent Yiftah El'azar has the initial details:

[El'azar] The Shamgar Commission has just allowed the publication of the deposition taken from Yig'al 'Amir by Shamgar Commission investigators Amir Zolti and Sigal Kugot in his cell at the Ohalei Qeydar prison in Beersheba. The deposition is very long and detailed, and we will give you some of the highlights.

First, 'Amir claims that he did not mean to murder Prime Minister Rabin. I would not have done what Barukh Goldstein did, he says, I would not have been able to kill innocent people. My intention was not to kill Rabin. If I could have just paralyzed him it would have been good, too. That is why I did not shoot him in the head, but aimed at his spine. He then explains that he knew that in order to achieve his goal he had to wound Rabin, at least fatally.

'Amir claims it was not him but a Shin Bet bodyguard who shouted that the bullets were blanks after he shot Rabin. I remember being shocked that instead of doing something and helping Rabin they were shouting that the bullets were blanks. Very weird things happened there, he says. Asked by the investigators what he meant by that, 'Amir replies: Just as I was shooting, the bodyguard shouted that the bullets were blanks. I am certain that one bodyguard said that the bullets were blanks, that they were not real. I remember that when I heard the shout I was a little bit shocked. After all, I had checked the bullets. Replying to the investigators' questions, 'Amir insisted: I am a killer, but I am not a liar.

'Amir for the first time discloses that he suspected Avishay Raviv, leader of EYAL [Jewish Fighting Organization], of being a Shin Bet agent. After Goldstein's deed, Raviv moved to Qiryat Arba'. People came to me and told me that he was from the Shin Bet, that he worked for the Shin Bet; suspicions arose that Raviv might be from the Shin Bet. I said that even if he worked for the Shin Bet he still was a human being and

that perhaps the Shin Bet is not our country's enemy. At this point, rather surprisingly, 'Amir lauded the Shin Bet. People think today that it happened because the Shin Bet did not use caution. There is no way the Shin Bet could have known; it had no idea about me at all. All it knew was that I organize Sabbath activities and such, but it could never have known that I would do what I did.

'Amir claims that Raviv said on numerous occasions that Rabin must be killed. I can tell you that he said many times that Rabin must be killed, I have many witnesses who can testify to that. However, Raviv is not the kind of person that people listen to, 'Amir says.

The man charged with murdering Yitzhaq Rabin claims that he had halakic approval for the murder. I would not have done it had I not had a halakic document. After all, I am an observant Jew. 'Amir does not say that he himself consulted a rabbi, but recounts that Margalit Har-Shefi went on her own initiative to consult a rabbi. She came back to me shamefaced, and told me that the rabbi had chickened out.

'Amir said he told his friends about his plans to murder Rabin, but they did not take him seriously. I used to say Rabin should be killed and smile. Nobody thought I would kill him, 'Amir says.

Finally, at the end of his deposition 'Amir says: I have no political aspirations. I am willing to spend all my life in jail, I have things to do in jail; I will study all my life. But, I hope this sacrifice has not been in vain. I am sure my sacrifice has not been in vain, or else I would not have succeeded.

To repeat, these are initial details from the transcript of the 100-page deposition. We would like to thank the members of the Shamgar Commission who decided that the public has a right to know.

Bid for Form of NATO Membership Said 'Premature'*MM1601160196 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 16 Jan 96 pp 1, 4*

[Report by 'Abd-al-Hamid al-Yahyawi: "Jordan Requests To Join NATO; Alliance Believes Request 'Premature'"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Brussels — NATO Secretary General Javier Solana discussed with Jordanian Crown Prince Hasan in Brussels yesterday the prospects for military and security cooperation between the two sides.

NATO sources have told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that Jordan submitted a request for "a form of membership" in NATO, and that it requested what it termed "a membership of support" with a view to obtaining the surplus of used NATO weapons at lower prices.

Prince Hasan told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT following his meeting with Solana: We discussed the issue of relations with NATO in addition to prospects for security cooperation with the other international groupings.

NATO sources told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the idea of opening the membership door to Jordan is premature and out of the question now, and all that the alliance can do for Amman is to include it in the Mediterranean dialogue that the alliance intends to conduct with some Mediterranean states, namely Tunisia, Egypt, Morocco, Mauritania, and Israel. [passage omitted]

Authorities To Deport Alleged Head of Iraqi Intelligence*JN1601121396 Amman AL-BILAD in Arabic 17 Jan 96 p 1*

[FBIS Translated Text] Jordanian authorities have decided to deport Khalid al-Khalidi, also known as Abu-Sumayyah, assistant Iraqi cultural attache in Amman, who heads the Iraqi intelligence network in Jordan. Al-Khalidi attracted the attention of Jordanian security authorities by his suspect moves, contacts with persons whose allegiance [to the Iraqi regime] is questionable, and pursuit of Iraqi activists in Amman.

Iraq Asked To Stop Firing on Fleeing Soldiers*MM1701111796 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 17 Jan 96 pp 1, 6*

[Report by Salamah Ni'mat: "Jordan Urges Iraq To Stop Firing on Fleeing Soldiers"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Amman — Reliable Jordanian sources said yesterday that the Jordanian Government recently sent a strongly worded memorandum to the

Iraqi Government, urging it to stop firing on Iraqi soldiers fleeing to Jordan.

The sources said that the memorandum urged a halt to "the Iraqi border guards' violations, committed under the pretext of combating smuggling and smugglers." The sources pointed out that the Jordanian Government informed Baghdad that "it does not accept that shots be fired on escapees or any person near the Jordanian border."

The sources revealed that 180 Iraqi soldiers have turned to Jordan "over the recent period." The sources said that most of the escapees "turned to Jordan to escape the tragic economic conditions and to seek a livelihood."

The sources said that "Iraqi border guards have arrested a large number of escapees before they managed to enter Jordanian territory. And sometimes the border guards pursue them inside Jordanian territory."

The Jordanian sources said that Iraqi Army deserters have been allowed to reside in Jordan, pointing out that "we have no option but to shelter them, especially as they would face execution in Iraq" if they were deported.

The sources added that many Iraqi soldiers "sell their arms in the border area, then bury their military uniform on the Iraqi side of the border before infiltrating into Jordan."

The sources confirmed that the number of Iraqis turning to Jordan "has recently begun to increase noticeably." The sources declined to reveal the exact number. However, they confirmed that the number of Iraqi refugees in Jordan "exceeds 30,000."

Jordanian Government sources have on several occasions expressed their utmost concern over a possible influx of Iraqi refugees as a result of the deteriorating security and living conditions in Iraq, the collapse of the Iraqi currency, and fears of an internal explosion.

Iraq Meeting Planned for 'February or Early March'*JN1501093796 Amman AL-MAJD in Arabic 15 Jan 96 p 1*

[FBIS Translated Text] An informed political Jordanian source said that King Husayn discussed during his recent meeting with Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal the possibility of convening a meeting in Amman that is attended by a number of Arab countries with the aim of expediting lifting of the siege on Iraq and alleviating the suffering of the Iraqi people.

The source said Husayn raised this subject during his meeting in Israel with Israeli Prime Minister Shim'on

Peres and U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher who promised to convince the Gulf states to attend this meeting in Amman.

The informed source said the meeting will discuss a plan to lift the siege on Iraq gradually in return for the Iraqi regime's reconciliation with the opposition, adoption of political pluralism, and implementation of all UN resolutions without procrastination or selectivity.

The source also said the Amman meeting, which is expected to be held late next February or early March and before the upcoming meeting of the Security Council's Sanctions Committee, will work out a collective plan to topple the Iraqi regime if it fails to respond to the proposed plan.

Official Reacts to Syria Denying Entry to Trucks

*JN1401112096 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English
14 Jan 96 p 3*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman (J.T.)—Jordan will prevent Syrian trucks carrying agricultural exports to the Gulf states from passing through its territory if the Syrians do not allow Jordanian trucks carrying such exports to Lebanon from entering through Syrian territories without reason, Salim al-Lawzi, director general of the Agricultural Marketing Organisation (AMO), said Wednesday.

Dr. al-Lawzi the statement in response to a question on how Jordan would react to protect its interests if Syria repeats what it did last week when it prevented 70 trucks from passing through its lands to Lebanon.

Dr. al-Lawzi said the problem was resolved when the Jordanian authorities contacted Jordan's ambassadors in Lebanon and Syria to intervene to settle this problem.

The trucks are now given permission to cross into Syrian territory on their way to Lebanon.

He said the Syrians have no right to stop the trucks in accordance with a transit agreement signed with Jordan.

Meanwhile, he said Lebanon will comply with the agricultural agreement it signed with Jordan last year and will ensure that Jordanian exports of tomatoes to Lebanon will enter the country without delay.

Dr. al-Lawzi told the JORDAN TIMES that Jordan last week exported 2000 tonnes of tomatoes to Lebanon, thus flooding the Lebanese market with this commodity. That, he said, prompted the Lebanese Agriculture Minister Shawqi Fakhury to call for organising the flow of tomato shipments to his country.

He said that until 20 January, the Lebanese will require a permit for the entry of the Jordanian products in advance.

According to Dr. al-Lawzi, the Jordanian-Lebanese agreement provides for Jordan to export any amount of tomatoes freely between 1 January and 30 April, adding that the agreement will be fully implemented.

Minister Comments on Saudi Arabia's Offer of Oil

*JN1601152496 Amman AL-ASWAQ in Arabic
16 Jan 96 pp 1, 19*

[Report by Nasir 'Arif]

[FBIS Translated Text] Samih Darwazah, minister of energy and mineral resources, said studies are under way to build a pipeline from Iraq to al-Zarqa' refinery to supply Jordan with Iraqi crude oil, instead of using trucks.

In a statement to AL-ASWAQ, the minister said the government will apply the axial load regulations to trucks transporting oil from Iraq as of next April. The purpose of this is to maintain the Jordanian highway network that extends from the Iraqi border to the city of 'Aqabah south of Jordan. Therefore, trucks transporting oil from Iraq will not be allowed to carry more than 22 tonnes as of next April. This applies to the four-axis truck.

On an offer reportedly made by Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal during his visit to Jordan last week to supply Jordan with Saudi oil, Darwazah said: We welcome this. We thank the government of the custodian of the two holy mosques for its continuous support. The minister added: However, Jordan, as everybody knows, signed an agreement with Iraq last month in this respect, and continues to import Iraqi oil.

Darwazah said Jordan asked Saudi Arabia to supply it with natural liquid gas to meet its local demand. He hoped that Saudi Arabia would respond to this request, saying this would open new channels of cooperation.

King, Eritrean Minister Discuss Island Dispute

*JN1501163996 Amman Radio Jordan Network
in Arabic 1600 GMT 15 Jan 96*

[FBIS Translated Text] His Majesty King Husayn has received Eritrean Interior Minister Ali Said Abdalla and his delegation at the Royal Hashemite Court. The Eritrean minister conveyed to his majesty a message from Eritrean President Isaias Afworki concerning the latest developments in the dispute with Yemen over al-Hanish al-Kabir island.

During the meeting, his majesty underlined the need to settle the dispute over this island through dialogue, arbitration, and peaceful means to spare the two parties' any escalation in the conflict and the use of force.

His majesty voiced satisfaction that the two sides to the dispute believe in the need to resolve the problem through dialogue and peaceful means.

The meeting was attended by Marwan al-Qasim, chief of the Royal Hashemite Court.

Cabinet Reshuffle After Palestinian Elections

*JN1501111396 Amman AL-MAJD in Arabic
15 Jan 96 p 1*

[FBIS Translated Text] AL-MAJD learned that the cabinet reshuffle will not take place until after the results of the Palestinian self-rule assembly elections are announced on 20 January.

An informed source told AL-MAJD the prime minister wants to introduce a limited reshuffle that does not affect more than six portfolios. However, higher quarters want to expand the reshuffle to include 15 portfolios to reflect major developments in Jordanian policy.

In statements to AL-MAJD, Dhuqan al-Hindawi and Ibrahim 'Izz-al-Din denied rumors they could join the cabinet in the upcoming reshuffle.

Columnist Replies to al-Sahhaf Criticism

*JN1301115696 Amman AL-ASWAQ in Arabic
13 Jan 96 p 3*

[Spotlight] column by Misbah: "Al-Sahhaf's Discovery"]

[FBIS Translated Text] No one has defended Iraq as Jordan has. No one has been as elated as Jordan with the aggrandizement of Iraq's role prior to the occupation of Kuwait. No one has also sacrificed its interests for Iraq as Jordan has. We would like to say that this is Jordan's duty and not a favor it did for Iraq. Jordan did not support the annexation of Kuwait; it officially opposed this at the time. Jordan is against any Arab side occupying Arab territory. But, at the time, there was an intention to obscure Jordan's stand because it wanted an Arab solution; there was an intention to exacerbate the situation to the point of misunderstanding if not enmity. However, matters are now being clarified.

Jordan remained Arab, as it cannot give up its Arab affiliation and message. It was the only one to call for Arab solutions, for understanding, and for reaching an Arab agreement. Many started paying attention to this only some ten years later. Jordan became preoccupied with the Iraqi tribulation because this was the major Arab concern. When Iraqi families are forced to sell their household belongings to buy food, when the Iraqi individual sells one of his organs to keep his other organs alive, and when the Iraqi prisons become so crammed that the only solution is to physically liquidate

some of their inmates, I believe that, then, the danger bell should toll not only in Baghdad but in every Arab capital. If some are turning a deaf ear, our pan-Arab feelings in Jordan are so sensitized that they have started to wake up all.

Jordan was among the first to call on the Iraqi leaders before the invasion to desist from any adventure that would tear the Arab world apart and dissipate the Arab aspirations to liberate the land and the individual in the Middle East, and to regain all our rights through the impositions of our conditions, and not through the imposition of the conditions of others as had taken place, is taking place, and will take place.

Jordan counseled, warned, and exerted pressure to stop the series of unwise adventures in the wake of the occupation of Kuwait, during the Gulf war, and after the liberation of Kuwait. These efforts, however, were not successful as there was more persistence to proceed on the wrong course.

Jordan, which has an unequivocal foreign policy and which is aware of the perils engulfing the Arab nation, has visualized the state of affairs that would prevail if this irrational course of destroying Iraq continues. Jordan also visualized the impact that this could have on its borders, its state of affairs, and on its inhabitants and stability, not to mention the horrible tragedies that would result in case the anger of the starved, the sick, and cornered sons of a fraternal people of more than 20 million is unleashed.

Jordan has closely monitored the foreign tampering in the southern part of Iraq until it became detached from Iraq and the foreign tampering in the north until this northern part also became detached from Iraq, resulting in a de facto partitioning of Iraq.

What did Jordan do? Toward the end of last year, it called on all the concerned parties, both opposition and state, to save the future of Iraq, alleviate its people's suffering, and reunite it after it had already been divided, so that it may once again return as a strong Arab state that supports its people and Arab nation. The invitation was well received and some opposition parties suggested a federation for a divided Iraq. Jordan welcomed any formula that would achieve four basic goals:

1. Uniting Iraqi people and territories.
2. Alleviating the Iraqi people's suffering and lifting the embargo.
3. Enabling Iraqis to enjoy their human rights just like any other people, and giving them the right to self-determination.

4. Ensuring Iraq's safe return to its Arab nation so that it may take its position among other nations without foreign interference.

From then onward, media campaigns were launched against Jordan. Why? Is it because it did not, along with Iran and Turkey, publicly call for the unity of Iraqi territories, while in secret make continuous attempts to seize its territories in the north as well as in the south, interfere with its affairs, manipulate the Iraqi people, tamper with their future, and keep them divided?

Is it because Jordan announced its position publicly, while other parties, some of which are Arab, are working secretly with the opposition as well as with Iran and Turkey, to entrench foreign designs in Iraq?

Last week, His Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal called for returning Iraq to the Arab fold. His Excellency President Husni Mubarak earlier made a similar call in Al-'Aqabah. Prince al-Faysal and President Mubarak shared Jordan's pain at the suffering of the brotherly Iraqi people, and described what they are going through as a tribulation that will eventually come to an end. They also expressed the need to preserve all parts of Iraq in the north, center, and the south as an indivisible whole that will embrace all the factions of the Iraqi people within the framework they deem fit.

This is Jordan's position. It is also the position of sisterly Egypt and Saudi Arabia. How then can the Iraqi foreign minister describe this sincere Arab concern as interference in Iraq's internal affairs, or that it serves foreign interests? Moreover, in statements to London radio, Salah al-Mukhtar, chief editor of the Iraqi newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH, said that the idea of saving the Iraqi people as called for by Jordan is an Israeli idea. Is it possible that Israel, according to him, is more aware of the Iraqi people's suffering than the regime in Baghdad?

Finally, I would like to remind people that opposition to the Jordanian position was based on old conclusions which all the brothers have come to realize constitute the sound pan-Arab stand which says that solutions should always come from within the Arab circle, and that this does not concern those outside the Arab house. As Arabs, we should cooperate with the Arab people of Iraq so that they would not be left prey to incitement, partitioning, and interference in the northern and eastern parts of Iraq. If, one day, Iraq caused separation, then saving the Iraqi people has become the point for reuniting all the Arabs.

Editor Faces Charges for Article on Bahrain

JN1501101796 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English
15 Jan 96 p 12

[Report by Sa'idah Kilani; "Special to the JORDAN TIMES"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman—Fahd al-Rimawi, the chief editor of AL-MAJD weekly, will appear today before the criminal court accused of publishing writings that harm Jordan's relations with another country.

It will be the first time that a Jordanian journalist is tried before a criminal court.

The charge against Mr. al-Rimawi was motivated by an article published in AL-MAJD last February by the exiled Bahraini leader of the Popular Committee, 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Nu'aymi, which calls for the removal of the chief of security in Bahrain, Ian Henderson, a Briton. The article compared Mr. Henderson with "Glubb, pasha," John Bagott Glubb, the British commander of the Jordanian Armed Forces in the 1950s who was expelled by His Majesty King Husayn in 1956.

Mr. al-Rimawi's case is based on a law that dates back to the 1960s and that has never been applied against journalists and writers. If found guilty, Mr. al-Rimawi would face a minimum five years in prison.

"This article (in the penal code) does not fit the democratic era," said leading columnist fahd al-Fanik in an article recently published in AL-BILAD newspaper. "It has been frozen and has never been used even during the martial law era, why reactivate it now?"

In a reply published in the same newspaper a week later, Muhammad Amin, head of the Press and Publication Department called on Mr. al-Fanik to thank the government for its tolerance instead of lashing out at it.

"If our government was tolerant, and it had been the case for some time, we could not force others to be tolerant as well. The law had given them the right to litigate and to defend their rights," said Mr. Amin in his reply.

Without naming Mr. al-Rimawi's paper or his article, Mr. Amin said that at the time the item appeared in AL-MAJD, a delegation from Bahrain arrived in Amman "to negotiate on an agreement to employ 1,500 Jordanians in their country in the fields of information and education... (however) when the delegation read the article, the deal was dropped and we lost the chances of employment at a time when we are suffering from un-employment."

"Don't we know how to write and criticise... can't we have freedom of expression without accusing others of dependency, oppression of harming them by infringing on their private lives?" he asked.

"This is not freedom. We are in a civilised country that respects the law, and if we lost the right to litigate what else do we have and why does (Dr. al-Fanik) insist that the government should not resort to court as a final arbiter?"

In another article published in the weekly Shihan newspaper, Dr. al-Fanik criticised Mr. Amin's stand and said that Arab neighbouring countries should tolerate freedom of expression in Jordan just as they do when similar articles appear in European and American publications.

"If this continues then it means the end of the freedom of the press in Jordan, a basic pillar of democracy," Dr. al-Fanik said.

According to Mr. al-Rimawi, four other cases are filed against AL-MAJD—a Nasserite-leaning newspaper. But all of them are based on violations of the Press and publications Law. This, however, is based on Article 118 of the 1960 penal code which states that: "Any person who through acts, writings or speeches... not approved by the government... that harm the Kingdom's relations with another state is punishable by no less than five years imprisonment."

French Foreign Minister Arrives, Meets Buwayz

NC1601154096 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic
1400 GMT 16 Jan 96

[FBIS Translated Text] French Minister of Foreign Affairs Herve De Charette and Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz are now meeting at the Foreign Ministry. The meeting began at 1500, after Buwayz met the French guest at the airport earlier today.

Buwayz said that De Charette's visit is important because of its timing and because he is beginning his Middle East tour in Lebanon. He said:

[Begin Buwayz recording] We welcome the French foreign minister, his wife, and accompanying delegation. The visit is important in view of its timing and because he is beginning his Middle East tour in Lebanon. France's stance on Lebanon is well known. We must say that France's concern for Lebanon's sovereignty and independence at this delicate stage makes this visit important. It may open the way for us to review a number of issues relating to the peace process. We will hear the French stance on these developments. [end recording]

De Charette said that he is very happy to visit Lebanon and that he brings on behalf of the French government testimony to the friendship that France harbors for Lebanon and its support for the efforts of the Lebanese Government and people to improve the situation. He noted that the major issues concerning Lebanon and the region will be at the core of the talks he will hold with Lebanese officials. He stressed that the French people are deeply interested in Lebanese issues.

Buwayz, De Charette Comment

NC1601181596 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic
1630 GMT 16 Jan 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Lebanese-French talks were held at the Foreign Ministry today, and they were followed by a tete-a-tete meeting between Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz and French Foreign Minister Herve De Charette. At the end of the meeting, the two ministers spoke to journalists. Minister Buwayz said:

[Begin recording] [Buwayz] We held talks with His Excellency Minister Herve De Charette and his delegation. The talks primarily dealt with the peace process. His excellency informed us of France's complete readiness to follow the developments of the peace process, especially from the Lebanese perspective, and to offer to Lebanon, at the right time, the necessary support at all levels. By this we mean supporting Lebanon's recovery of complete sovereignty over its occupied south, and supporting it in a number of areas related to peace, stability, sovereignty, and independence. The talks also

dealt with bilateral cooperation in the economic and cultural fields. His excellency declared France's complete readiness to strengthen and activate relations in these areas. Moreover, the French delegation voiced France's readiness to contribute, if necessary and if requested by the various parties, to keeping peace, security, and stability in the south.

[Unidentified correspondent] Has Lebanon accepted this offer?

[Buwayz] It is too early to discuss these things now, when the negotiations have not yet started. We will discuss this in light of the results of the negotiations. [end recording]

Herve De Charette stressed the importance of relations between the two countries and said Lebanon is an important part of the French foreign policy. He stressed the importance of Lebanon's sovereignty and independence and expressed France's readiness to help Lebanon to achieve its objectives in all areas.

More on Comments

NC1701081596 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic
0530 GMT 17 Jan 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] French Foreign Minister Herve De Charette is continuing his visit to Lebanon. Today he will meet President Ilyas al-Hirawi, Chamber of Deputies Speaker Nabih Birri, and Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams-al-Din. Yesterday he met Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri, Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz, and Mufti Muhammad Rashid Qabbani.

After 90 minutes of talks at the Lebanese Foreign Ministry, the French and Lebanese foreign ministers held a joint news conference. The French foreign minister said progress in the negotiations on the Syrian-Israeli track will pave the way for the discussion of issues of concern to Lebanon. He stressed French interest in maintaining Lebanon's sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity, noting that France wishes to help Lebanon in every way it can to attain these objectives, which are as important to the French people as they are to the Lebanese people, and based on the same conditions.

Minister De Charette asserted that his country is willing to contribute practical field assistance to any likely security arrangements.

He said that in addition to the peace issue, his talks with Buwayz also dealt with bilateral issues such as the French contribution to the Lebanese reconstruction process. He noted that France is committed to making this contribution in line with the Lebanese Government's and Prime Minister al-Hariri's initiatives. [passage omitted]

Asked if the concerned parties have accepted the French offer to send troops to the Golan Heights and south Lebanon, De Charette remarked: It is too early to go into details now. We have exchanged views and discussed policies and principles. Minister Buwayz and myself are in total agreement. My remarks on this issue in various countries have been well received. [passage omitted]

Herve De Charette visited Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri and said: We discussed the importance of the Lebanese-French friendship and our governments' determination to boost the two countries' longstanding relations, in their political aspect, which is important in view of the approaching peace, and in their economic aspect, particularly with Lebanon making remarkable progress in its reconstruction drive. [passage omitted]

During a reception hosted by French Ambassador Jean-Pierre la Fond at the French Embassy in Beirut, De Charette said that Lebanon has a high standing with President Chirac because Lebanon is the only country in the region where diverse cultural and religious groups contribute jointly to running the state.

De Charette added: The peace process is on track. It will include Lebanon. Each peace arrangement must take two things into account: a guarantee for Lebanon's independence and strengthening the Lebanese State's authority over all its territories.

During a dinner hosted by Foreign Minister Buwayz, the French foreign minister said that France admires Lebanon's diversity, pluralism, and capabilities, all of which distinguish it from other countries in the region. He expressed his appreciation of the Lebanese people and said that Lebanon has not yet benefited from the peace that is being established in the Middle East. He said that France hopes negotiations will resume between Israel and Lebanon soon.

De Charette added: France knows the negotiations must resume under favorable conditions to avoid any haste that might have adverse consequences. It is up to the Lebanese leaders, in line with their assessment of domestic and foreign circumstances, to draw up a timetable and set out the conditions under which they can begin the negotiations. France knows that full Lebanese sovereignty serves the good of all Lebanon's friends and neighbors and will be a basic factor in safeguarding their security. This analysis is strengthened by what we were told during our meetings in the region. We look forward to extending our backing to all the concerned parties.

Minister Buwayz responded with a toast of his own, saying: Lebanon, destined to stand at the confluence of rushing currents, is now freeing itself of the yoke of

strong regional conflicts that have engulfed its people and territory for years. Its valleys, mountains, and plains have never shied away from their fate as a refuge for persecuted nations over the centuries.

He added: Today, 20 years after crushing incidents overwhelmed it, Lebanon aspires to rebuild itself, achieve unity, and restore its peace, institutions, democratic system, economy, authority, sovereignty, and independence. This restoration is necessary before it can resume its national, regional, and international role. The chapter of war cannot be closed and consigned to history before south Lebanon and Western al-Biq'a are liberated. As long as this part of our territory remains separate from the rest of Lebanon, our country will remain handicapped. Unless Israel carries out a full withdrawal from the occupied Lebanese territories up to the international border and gives the Lebanese Government the opportunity to exercise its full sovereignty using its legal armed forces in line with UN resolutions and the peace conference's principles, we cannot close the chapter of those men who fall in battle and the bloodshed in south Lebanon and northern Israel. When Lebanon is liberated from the occupation and its direct and indirect effects, it will regain full sovereignty over its territories. That is a basic part of its independence. This is the result that Lebanon wants the regional peace process to achieve. Lebanon joined the process to attain a real, just, comprehensive, and lasting peace. Otherwise all UN resolutions and UN credibility will remain shaky and will leave the region and the world subject to threats.

Minister Buwayz pointed out that Lebanon expects much from France and a greater degree of solidarity than usual, especially as France has chosen to play this role.

Buwayz declared: Asking Lebanon to halt Resistance operations, end the boycott of Israel, and participate in the multilateral negotiations before the liberation of its territories is guaranteed means leaving the negotiations without significance. It constitutes a demand to Lebanon to lay down its arms even before the talks begin. Criticizing Lebanon's participation in the peace process on the pretext that it benefits from UN Security Council Resolution 425 shows a disregard for the resolution's place outside the scope of the regional peace operation. This resolution stands no chance of being implemented, particularly as there is no likelihood that it will be implemented forcibly by UN forces. This is because the United Nations is impotent, unable to confront some of the luckier countries.

De Charette on Peace

NC1601210796 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic
2000 GMT 16 Jan 96

[FBIS Translated Text] At a dinner banquet hosted in his honor by Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz this evening, French Minister of Foreign Affairs Herve De Charette stressed that Lebanon has an important part in peace, and that any peace that does not give Lebanon its proper place will be neither fair nor comprehensive, nor will it last. He said that the Lebanese must negotiate a peace that concerns Lebanon. He said: You must be dealt with, and no one but you can decide your future. He noted that France is prepared to participate in several security arrangements in south Lebanon to guarantee implementation of future agreements.

Fadlallah Sees 'Positive Conclusion' to Talks

MM1101134596 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic
11 Jan 96 pp 1, 6

[Unattributed report: "Fadlallah: Indications of Positive Conclusion to Peace Process"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Beirut — Scholar Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah said yesterday that there are indications that the Syrian-Israeli negotiations "will come to a positive conclusion as regards a settlement, because the new atmosphere that followed the assassination of former Israeli Prime Minister (Yitzhaq) Rabin and the U.S. and Israeli need for the success of these negotiations are prompting them to work to secure some conditions that serve the peace process." He also said: "Maybe Syria saw this atmosphere as an encouraging sign, thus it made a move, even though the two sides will face difficulties when they discuss the main issues, which could arouse many complications, whether with regard to the negotiators or Zionist society, which harbors vehement opposition to the requirements for the negotiations' success." He added: "At a time when we are not playing down the difficulties we believe there is something on which we still have not been briefed as regards the situation concerning the negotiations — something that has caused the process to be rushed, but not at the speed about which the media are talking."

Fadlallah stressed that Islamists "reject Israel's legitimacy and believe that a peace based on justice can only be achieved when the Jews, who came from faraway regions of the world, leave and the Palestinians return to Palestine. Naturally the Islamists will continue their rejection and will make their moves after the negotiations just like they made their moves before the negotiations, proceeding from their religious duty. If this duty tells them to stop, they stop; if it tells them to move, they move."

Arrest Warrant Issued for SLA Commander Lahd

NC1601184996 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic
1630 GMT 16 Jan 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Pursuant to the request and the lawsuit filed by Judge Nasri Lahhud, the government's representative at the military court, First Military Investigating Judge Riyad Tali' has issued an arrest warrant in absentia for [South Lebanese Army, SLA, Commander] Antoine Lahd. He is charged with cooperation with the Israeli enemy, usurping the state's sovereignty over part of its territory, kidnapping, murder, and other crimes. Judge Lahhud sent the warrant to all competent security authorities for implementation.

In a related development, informed sources told the NATIONAL NEWS AGENCY that the arrest warrant against agent Antoine Lahd has negatively affected the situation of his militiamen. They are now discussing their destiny and disobeying orders to stand guard, especially at forward positions.

Hizballah Claims Ability To 'Develop' Katyushas

NC1601190496 London MBC Television in Arabic
1800 GMT 16 Jan 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Hizballah continues its effort to carry out the battle against Israel despite the progress in the peace negotiations between Syria and Israel. Less than 24 hours after Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' announced in Beirut that Damascus is interested in reaching a settlement this year, Hizballah announced that it is able to develop Katyusha rockets. [passage omitted]

Israelis Shell Areas; 'Resistance' Reacts

NC1601185296 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic
1630 GMT 16 Jan 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The Israeli occupation forces continued to shell southern Lebanese villages and regions today. Bra'shit, the hills of al-Jabal al-Rafi', al-Wadi al-Akhdar, and the al-Wazzani River basin were targeted.

The Israeli occupation forces this evening deported citizen Sana' Qasim As'ad and her two children from the occupied town of al-Rayhan to the liberated areas through the Kafr Tibnit crossing point. The occupation authorities said her presence was undesirable after her husband, Husni Badi' Husni, escaped from service with the agent militias [South Lebanese Army] 10 days ago.

For its part, the resistance retaliated against the attacks. A resistance group spotted a patrol of the agents along Bayt Yahun road and fired three missiles at it. An armored personnel carrier was burned and a number of people were wounded, according to a statement by the resistance.

Khaddam: Nothing Can Undermine Syrian-Iranian Ties*LD1701123896 Tehran IRNA in English
1210 GMT 17 Jan 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Damascus, Jan. 17, IRNA — The Syrian First Vice-President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam said here on Wednesday [17 January] that nothing can have any negative impact on Irano-Syrian friendly relations. Khaddam, in a meeting with the Iranian ambassador to Syria, Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad Hasan Akhtari, added that Tehran-Damascus relations are strategic and growing.

The two Muslim nations of Iran and Syria have common interests in the region, said the Syrian official, adding that the two countries' joint committee will be established during the upcoming visit of Iranian First Vice-President Hasan Habibi to Syria.

The Iranian ambassador said that Iran and Syria shared coordinated stands on regional and international issues. Some important regional issues and the Syria-Israel peace talks were among other topics figuring in the meeting.

Iranian Foreign Minister Cited on 'Strong' Ties*JN1501062196 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio
Network in Arabic 0515 GMT 15 Jan 96*

[FBIS Translated Text] Tehran — Iranian Foreign Minister Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati yesterday underlined the strong relations between Iran and the Syrian Arab Republic.

At a news conference yesterday after delivering his keynote address at the inauguration of a seminar on security and foreign policies in Central Asia and the Caucasus, Dr. Velayati pointed out that relations between Tehran and Damascus are strong and intimate and will remain so. Velayati said relations with Israel are not the only standard that governs Iran's relations with other sovereign countries. There are other elements and principles that govern relations between the two countries, he said.

Al-Asad, French Official Discuss Peace Process*TA1701115296 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew
1100 GMT 17 Jan 96*

[FBIS Translated Text] The president of the French National Assembly said after a visit to Damascus that in President al-Asad's view, the issues in dispute between Israel and Syria on security guarantees for the Golan Heights, south Lebanon, and water will be resolved. Philippe Sagan, who conferred with President al-Asad on behalf of President Chirac, also said that although the

Syrian president said there is a possibility of achieving a peace accord before the summer, he would not be upset if the process continues after the Israeli elections. Sagan said al-Asad told him that after achieving peace, Hizballah activity in south Lebanon would cease. At this stage, Syria and Lebanon oppose a separate track for talks between Israel and Lebanon parallel to the Israeli-Syrian track in the United States. Our correspondent Gid'on Kouts interviewed the French official in Paris.

Press on Resumption of Talks, Europe Role*JN1701080196 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio
Network in Arabic 0545 GMT 17 Jan 96*

[Press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] In an editorial entitled "The Yardstick of Seriousness," TISHRIN says: The agreement to resume the Maryland negotiations on 24 January confirms Syria's keenness to give the peace process a new chance. It also confirms Syria's determination to provide all the appropriate conditions to build just and comprehensive peace, however, such a peace cannot be made by one party only. The other party must also exert efforts and display a desire and seriousness.

TISHRIN adds: Peace requires clear, frank, and specific positions and action on the ground. Such positions and action are still somewhat missing in the action of Shim'on Peres' government. Some members of that government deliberately seek to make contradictory and ambiguous statements, while others stick to intransigent positions, which generate pessimism and uneasiness, and which do not help provide the appropriate conditions to render the future round of talks a success.

TISHRIN adds: In order to ensure the success of these talks, one has to move from the stage of exploring positions to the stage of serious action to provide the pillars for building the just and comprehensive peace. This means complete withdrawal to beyond the 4 June 1967 lines, an agreement on equitable and equal security arrangements that do not infringe on sovereignty, ending the manifestations of Israeli aggression against Lebanon, and complete withdrawal from southern Lebanon.

TISHRIN says: The forthcoming Maryland talks will provide a real test for the Israeli officials' desire to translate the atmosphere of openness into reality. One is cautious in this respect of the attempts by certain Israeli official and unofficial quarters to diminish the importance of Warren Christopher's recent tour and to promote a climate of frustration about the possibility of the success of the forthcoming Maryland talks. This despite the fact that Christopher himself announced that he achieved what he sought from his tour when an

agreement was reached to resume the talks in Maryland and to back negotiators in these talks with military experts.

TISHRIN adds: Israeli quarters do not wish to see an active U.S. role in the negotiations and do not want this role to be fair and unbiased. They want Washington to adopt the Israeli viewpoint on all points under discussion. There is another point that causes uneasiness. Some Israeli officials are continuing to try to cause a disengagement between the Syrian and Lebanese tracks in order to deal separately with Lebanon and impose a humiliating settlement on it.

TISHRIN stresses: Israel's continued weapons-procurement drive indicates that there are certain parties in Israel which do not plan for peace, stability, and future coexistence. Instead, they seek to use the peace opportunities in order to achieve an Israeli military and economic hegemony over the entire region. This cannot in any way make the Arabs more confident about Israel's intentions, either now or in the future.

TISHRIN concludes: Moving toward peace means distancing oneself from staging aggression and wars and arousing the factors of violence and instability. At any rate, the forthcoming Maryland talks will provide a real test for the Peres government's desire and seriousness about terminating the factors of tension and building a just peace in the region.

In an editorial entitled "The Effective European Role," AL-BA'TH refers to the recent European political activity in the region which was not limited to economic questions or the issues related to bilateral cooperation. It has been observed that the Europeans in general, and the big powers among them in particular, are now ready for a political role — which can be initially described as effective — in the peace process, which has entered into a new phase following the recent developments.

AL-BA'TH notes that the common denominator among the European countries is their emphasis on a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East and their unambiguous reference to their readiness to play any role to achieve that goal. This was stated by the Netherlands prime minister on his first visit to Damascus recently. The same was stated before by the Norwegians and by French Foreign Minister De Charette, who will begin a visit to Syria today.

AL-BA'TH says: The EU states have always been asked to play an effective and influential role in the peace process in view of their geographic location first, and in view of the size of their mutual interests with the Arabs, second, therefore, the visit by the French foreign minister to Damascus today is particularly important.

AL-BA'TH concludes: In summary, Europe has broken free from the campaign of lies which the Israeli propaganda machine was directing against the European mind, both people and leaders. Europe today is different from yesterday. Placing emphasis on the French role does not necessarily mean underestimating the importance of the other European states.

In a commentary entitled "The Basis for Progress," AL-THAWRAH says: Throughout the peace process, Syria has never wasted time or obstructed the efforts seeking to achieve the just and comprehensive peace. Instead, Syria responded favorably to all the efforts after it opened the door for the peace process and the Madrid Conference, and after it offered all that is necessary to allow an opportunity for real progress, based on the peace process principles — namely, UN Security Council Resolutions 242, 338, and 425 and the land-for-peace formula. On the other hand, Israel entered the peace process only to evade criticism from world public opinion. Under the governments of the two Yitzhaq's — Shamir and Rabin — Israel sought to waste time, squander efforts, and prolong the peace process — Shamir suggested 10 years — to create new facts to make withdrawal an impossible thing to do, and hence destroy the historic opportunity for peace.

AL-THAWRAH stresses that the equation for peace is not concealed from anyone and the way to achieve progress is very clear. There can be no progress without Syria and Lebanon regaining all their territory, and without removing any manifestation of Israeli occupation and removing any of its remnants — namely, settlements, settlers, warning stations, and anything else that may infringe on Syria's full sovereignty over its national soil.

AL-THAWRAH concludes: Taking advantage of the new and positive atmosphere of the negotiations, with the United States' determination to enter into these negotiations as an effective partner and honest broker, means one has to know and apply the facts of peace. These facts are based on the resolutions of international legitimacy, the realities of history and geography, and the requirements of security and stability in the region.

Commentary Urges Israel To Recognize Nation's Rights

JN1601165096 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1247 GMT 16 Jan 96

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Confirming the unity of the Syrian and Lebanese tracks, and within the framework of continuous coordination between the two countries,

President Hafiz al-Asad has briefed President al-Hirawi on his talks with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, and on the results that have been achieved. Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' conveyed a message in this regard from President al-Asad to the Lebanese president. Al-Shar' said in Beirut that there will be no Syrian peace agreement with Israel without Lebanon, and that there will be no Lebanese peace agreement with Israel without Syria. The truth is that the region and the world currently pin great hopes on the possibility of achieving substantial progress in the Syrian-Israeli-U.S. talks. This is in light of the parties' cooperation and determination to achieve a serious breakthrough. It is well known that Syria is sincere toward the peace issue, and does not want more than to regain its territory and the implementation of the resolutions of international legitimacy. Throughout the past four years, Syria has proved that it has true faith in peace, and that it really seeks to achieve it. The United States is serious about accelerating the current talks and coming up with a satisfactory and positive result. Israeli Prime Minister Shim'on Peres has several times declared that priority is given to peace, that peace is more important than any election gain, and that peace with Syria is the cornerstone of the the comprehensive peace aspired by the region.

Although the Israeli Government shows good intentions, intentions alone cannot make peace. They should be translated into deeds on the ground. Observers say that Israel's frank commitment, before the international community, to withdraw to the 4 June 1967 lines in accordance with Resolutions 242 and 338, will leave the door for peace wide open, especially since there have been several Israeli statements on the Tel Aviv government's refusal to withdraw due to security reasons. Here, we do not want to remind of past stands and the talk about a withdrawal on the Golan — stands which demoralized Syria at that time and created a state of confusion, whose effects still exist. These effects cannot be eliminated except by stressing the will to carry out a full withdrawal and return all the Golan to Syria.

If the time factor is pressing, the Israeli Government should then display the necessary determination to accelerate the negotiations. Nothing can effect a qualitative move in the course of these negotiations like Israel's recognition of Syria's rights; namely, sovereignty over the Golan, Israel's readiness to withdraw from the Golan, and equitable [mutakafi'] security. One should not forget that Syria also cares about its security and the safety of its sons, that it has always been exposed to aggressions and violations, and that in light of the past bitter experiences over many years, it looks forward to parallel [mutawaziyah] and even [muta'adilah] security ar-

rangements which would dispel its legitimate concerns, especially since there are forces in Israel which declare their expansionist ambitions and hostility to peace. True peace, which returns rights to their owners and safeguards the dignity of all sides, is the guarantee of security and stability, which is blessed by the region's peoples. This is the kind of lasting and durable peace for which we are searching.

Muslim Brotherhood Leader Views Developments

JN1601210696 Amman AL-BILAD in Arabic
17 Jan 96 p 7

[Interview with Dr. Hasan al-Huwaydi, "controller general of the Muslim Brotherhood in Syria," by Sami al-Zubaydi; place and date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] [al-Zubaydi] The relationship between the Syrian regime and the Islamic group [Muslim Brotherhood] witnessed clashes and bloodshed in the early eighties, coupled with an official Syrian accusation that Jordan sheltered the Islamists on Jordanian territory. How do you evaluate this phase and what was the nature of the Jordanian role at that time, especially since relations between the two sisterly states were threatened by the possibility of a military clash at the border?

[Al-Huwaydi] The phase you mentioned was characterized by the heightening of the dispute between the Syrian regime and the Islamic group for several reasons known to many people in Syria. We had wished to solve the dispute by dialogue and mutual understanding without resorting to armed force in order to preserve the country's interest and national unity, however, developments took a different course and that was God's will. I once heard a senior Syrian official describe this painful reality by saying: We erred and you erred. Let us turn a new leaf. If the leaf was turned and national unity was preserved, the dispute would have been resolved in a just, and honorable way and cooperation would have been effected to serve the country and the people.

As for seeking refuge in Jordan, it was a natural thing. Many members of the Islamic group sought asylum in Jordan and other Arab and Islamic countries regardless of the nature of the relations between these countries and Syria.

[Al-Zubaydi] Can the Islamic group in Syria forget the Aleppo and Hamah events and turn a new leaf with President Hafiz al-Asad? What are the conditions for this?

[Al-Huwaydi] As you know, any dispute must lead to bloodshed and massacres if it is fomented and expanded, however, we say that if we are given a climate in which

we are allowed to call for the spreading of God's word by dialogue and within genuine political pluralism, free speech, and open dialogue, then we will have carried out our mission which we believe to be the source of the happiness of the society. It is God who will judge people on doomsday and we accept's God's judgment.

[Al-Zubaydi] Signs of improvement in Syria's political climate have appeared recently. Dozens of Islamists have been released. I wonder why this had to coincide with the approach of a peace settlement between Damascus and Tel Aviv. Does this development form a prelude to placing the Islamic group within the political life of Syria?

[Al-Huwaydi] The improvement you mentioned appeared in the wake of a number of developments. The most important of which is that the detainees have served their terms. Most of them have spent 15 years in jail. The regime wanted to spread the spirit of magnanimity and reassurance. There are also external and domestic factors. Perhaps it was encouraged by what is going on on the Syrian-Israeli track. In general this does not necessarily mean a prelude to allowing the Islamic group to exercise its right of participating in overt political activity.

[Al-Zubaydi] What are the prospects for Islamic action, especially the group's action, if Syria signs a peace agreement with Israel? What are the prospects for coexistence with the Ba'th regime in Syria?

[Al-Huwaydi] Islamic action has unchanging broad outlines, whether in the light of a Syrian-Israeli agreement or under the Ba'th Party rule. This is because the group abides by the message of Islam and calls for reviving Islamic values and rules.

As for any Syrian-Israeli agreement, the group in Syria has a similar position to that of the group in the Arab countries that signed a peace agreement with Israel. As for the Ba'th Party, justice and democracy dictate that there should be actual pluralism. All parties must be equal. No party should dominate the others. This way, citizens will be equal and will play an equal and free role in serving the homeland. This will be based on upholding justice, defeating falsehood, interaction between principles, and constructive dialogue. The best party will survive.

[Al-Zubaydi] Do you think that the Syrian regime is currently facing a crisis, especially after it was forced to change its policy toward Israel? How do you view the Syrian regime's future after a peace treaty is signed with Israel?

[Al-Huwaydi] I appreciate the fact that the Syrian regime is trying, in its negotiating rounds with the

Israeli enemy, to get the Golan in full in return for signing the so-called peace agreement. As for the regime's future with the Jews afterward, it is subject to many elements. This poses serious threats to the Arab homeland, including Syria and the rest of the Arab countries. You are not unaware of the social, moral, and economic threats involved in this context.

[Al-Zubaydi] How do you characterize cooperation among Islamic groups in the Arab East? What is the nature of coordination between the Brotherhood groups in Syria and Jordan?

[Al-Huwaydi] Cooperation among the Islamic groups is based on common principles and constants that are stated in the Koran and in Prophet Muhammad's words and deeds. Any coordination between us and those groups in Jordan or elsewhere is based on cooperation to spread Islamic values and compliance with ethics, without any interference in the policies of those countries.

[Al-Zubaydi] Do you believe in democracy and political pluralism as a strategy? Is it possible to coexist within this line with the regime in Syria?

[Al-Huwaydi] Yes, we believe in democracy. It is the best available option that achieves justice. We believe in political pluralism and democracy. There is no political system that is free of defects.

Al-Asad Inaugurates Craftsmen Congress

JN1601175896 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1215 GMT 16 Jan 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Under the patronage of strugler comrade President Hafiz al-Asad, secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, the eighth general congress of the Craftsmen Union was inaugurated at Damascus University auditorium today. [passage omitted]

Comrade Dr. Sulayman Qaddah, assistant regional secretary of the Arab Socialist Ba'th party, deputized for President Hafiz al-Asad in patronizing the congress. [passage omitted]

Comrade Dr. Sulayman Qaddah delivered a speech, at the outset of which he conveyed President Hafiz al-Asad's greetings to all the brother craftsmen. [passage omitted]

The assistant regional secretary spoke about the peace process, saying: Just and comprehensive peace is our strategic option. Syria is concerned about rendering the peace process a success, and about enabling it to achieve its aspired goal of realizing a just and comprehensive

peace which will lead to the liberation of the occupied Arab territories, the restoration of all rights, and to the return of our brother evacuees to their lands and homes. Syria strongly and firmly insists on Israel's full and comprehensive withdrawal from the Golan and southern Lebanon to the 4 June 1967 lines in implementation of the resolutions of international legitimacy in order to achieve the equitable [mutakafi'], balanced [mutawazin], and reciprocal [mutaqabil] security for all sides, safeguard all sides' dignity and rights, and to guarantee the realization of a true peace which will be accepted by peoples and protected by generations.

He pointed out: Maneuvering and evading the adoption of practical and decisive peace stands will not serve the

peace process, but will place a big obstacle before it. Israel should abide by the land-for-peace formula, and adopt a serious and practical stand by frankly announcing its commitment to the international resolutions and its readiness to bring about a comprehensive withdrawal from the Golan and southern Lebanon.

He said: The entire world is now aware of Syria's sincere peace stand, its embodiment of the Arab people's will, and that it will not relinquish a single inch of land or any of its rights. [passage omitted]

Afghanistan

Tehran Reports on Jalalabad, Islamabad Talks

LD1401155596 *Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English* 1230 GMT 14 Jan 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Talks between the government delegation under the chairmanship of Rasul Sayyaf, the leader of E'tehad-e Eslami, and the leaders of the government opponents still continues in Jalalabad. Recent reports say that he has started the third round of his talks with Mawlawi Mohammad Nabi Mohammadi and Mohammad Yunes Khales. Mawlawi Mohammad Nabi, the leader of Harakat-e Enqelab-e Eslami, is conducting talks on behalf of the Taleban too. According to the reports, a peace mechanism was the center of talks.

Informed sources have also reported to us a visit by a government delegation under the chairmanship of Mohammad Ebrahim Warsaji, the head of the political committee of Jami'yat-e Eslami and Kabul mayor, to Bamian. This delegation is visiting Hazarajat area after a visit by Dr. 'Abdol Rahman, the minister of civil aviation, and his talks with Khalili. Dr. 'Abdol Rahman has expressed satisfaction with the outcome of his talks in Bamian and described them as successful.

In the meantime, we have received reports that talks have started between the representatives of the Taleban and the High Coordination Council in Islamabad. So far no report has been received about the talks agenda and preliminary outcomes. The High Coordination Council is made up of Hekmatyar's Hezb-e Eslami, Dostam's Junbesh-e Meli, Khalili's Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami and Mojaddedi's Jabha-ye Meli. The previous round of talks between the Taleban and the High Coordination Council ended without a result due to differences of views among the parties, the Taleban insistence on military cooperation for capturing Kabul and the High Coordination Council insistence on reaching a conclusive agreement on the future government in Afghanistan. On the other hand Jabha-ye Meli and Junbesh-e Meli were unhappy at their inappropriate treatment by the Taleban and Islamabad. This led to a split in the council.

Taleban 'Inflexibility' Said To Prevent Progress

LD1701093696 *Tehran IRNA in English*
0910 GMT 17 Jan 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad, Jan. 17, IRNA — A tripartite anti-Rabbani alliance the Supreme Coordination Council of the Islamic Revolution of Afghanistan (SCCIRA) and the Taleban failed to show any progress on presenting a united stand against the Rabbani government.

The negotiations between the SCCIRA comprising the Hezb-e Eslami [Islamic Party] of Golboddin Hekmatyar, Dostam's National Front and Hezb-e Wahdat [Unity Party] and the representative of the Taleban, have not made any considerable headway due to inflexibility of the Taleban.

The SCCIRA, Taleban had started negotiations in Islamabad since last Thursday to devise a joint strategy against the Kabul regime.

The SCCIRA and Taleban have, however, decided to continue talks, which resume in Islamabad Wednesday [17 January] to reach a positive conclusion.

Ahmad Shah Mas'ud Publishes Rabbani Peace Plan

LD1101145896 *Moscow ITAR-TASS in English*
1432 GMT 11 Jan 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] NEW DELHI, January 11 (Itar-Tass) — Commander of the Afghan government troops Ahmad Shah Mas'ud has for the first time disclosed the peace plan advanced by President Borhanoddin Rabbani at the end of last year. This four-point plan calls on the conflicting sides to cease fire, open the blocked motor roads, exchange war prisoners, and begin peace talks.

According to Mas'ud, the Afghan government has already established contact with the opposition groups. "A successful dialogue is now under way with some of them, while the prospects with others are not so bright," Mas'ud stressed. He said that the military situation had cardinally changed and the Kabul authorities are no longer troubled by the need to defend the capital, which is besieged by Taleban units.

Mas'ud accused Pakistan of trying to overthrow the Kabul government. However, he stressed that Islamabad was still unable to rally together the military units of the opposition. He believes that the Pakistani regime will not be able to achieve this goal, because "Pakistan is in isolation in the region and is no longer supported by the West". "The Afghan government has agreed on the eve of the Sunday visit to Kabul of a special emissary of the U.N. Secretary-General, expected to arrive in there on Sunday, to hand over the reins of power to a neutral administration," Mas'ud said. The fratricidal war, which is continuing for the fourth year running, has almost completely paralysed Afghanistan's internal life and caused tremendous damage to its economy. It has taken a toll of scores of thousands of people. More than 25,000 peaceful civilians were killed during the hostilities around Kabul alone.

General Reportedly Defects to Hezb-e Eslami in Balkh

LD1201192196 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Pashto to Afghanistan 0730 GMT 12 Jan 96

[FBIS Translated Text] In a radio contact, a Radio Message of Freedom correspondent has reported from Balkh Province that yesterday Lieutenant General Akhtar Mohammad Ebrahimkhel, general commander of Mahaz-e Meli-ye Eslami [National Islamic Front], together with dozens of other commanders and (?1,000) armed mojahedin equipped with tanks and heavy weapons, in addition to light weapons, declared their full solidarity with the forces of Hezb-e Eslami [Islamic Party] in Balkh Province.

The report adds that the above jihadi front, the headquarters of which was in Charbolak, Chemtal, and Balkh Districts [words indistinct], expressed their solidarity with the Hezb-e Eslami.

Gen. Ebrahimkhel, a general commander of a major front of the Mahaz-e Meli-ye Eslami, and his accompanying commanders were welcomed by the (?Hezb-e Eslami) jihadi commanders, local tribal leaders, and esteemed Lieutenant General Joma Khan Hamdard, general commander of the Hezb-e Eslami in the north.

President's Speech Focuses on 'Foreign Interventions'

LD1601224196 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Dari 1615 GMT 16 Jan 96

[Speech by President Borhanoddin Rabbani at the opening ceremony of a scientific seminar of Kabul University lecturers on 15 January — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Respected lecturers of Kabul University and dear brothers and sisters, may peace and blessing of God be upon you.

To begin with, I express my appreciation to the head office of Kabul University and all those respected lecturers who have worked hard to convene this important seminar, and I pray to Almighty God that this seminar and all other earnest and sympathetic endeavors carried out for ending the current crisis in our beloved country should bear fruit.

Obviously, the current crisis in our country is not an internal crisis from a struggle between the groups and jihadi [moghahedin] factions, or a clash between the fraternal nationalities in our country.

From the beginning, when this crisis dominated our country [words indistinct] the main cause of this crisis

was foreign intervention in our beloved country. The problems that our persecuted nation face with [words indistinct] are the result of shameless foreign interventions that take place with unholy objectives.

Cowardly conspiracies were being hatched against our [words indistinct] historical values and national unity, and these conspiracies and interventions are still continuing. The mask must be removed from the face of the interventionists. International organizations, the United Nations, and the OIC [Organization of Islamic Conference] should have done something from the start when they began their endeavors concerning Afghanistan to determine the main causes of the crisis. Unfortunately, whether it was out of conservativeness or any other factors, we saw that the international organizations who had been working to find a solution to our country's crisis did not seriously tackle the main cause of the crisis. [Passage indistinct]

It is up to us, up to the scholars and the cultural centers in the country, to raise our voices, to call for resolving the problems and for preventing interference, to strive to ensure that this problem in our country ends.

As the greatest scholarly and cultural center in our country, Kabul University, which is the real reflexion of the nation's conscience, and its teachers, shall try to prevent foreign interference in our country through seminars and through explaining the real dimensions of the problem. I believe the esteemed teachers' efforts will not be without result. [Words indistinct] the government is ready to take into consideration any healthy plan or proposal from any side and to resolve the problems through understanding and talks. [Words indistinct] the Islamic state announced that its leadership was ready to hold direct talks in any place that the opposition considered suitable to discuss the nation's problems and to achieve a result in the interests of the nation.

Anyway this decision of ours is a serious one. [Words indistinct] that the Afghan problem cannot be resolved through fighting. A famous Afghan proverb says that blood cannot be washed with blood. Peace should be restored nationwide in our beloved country, a cease-fire must be implemented, and the ground must be prepared for talks. The ground should also be prepared for the people to express their will so that they themselves decide on the fundamental issues and express their will in bringing about a leadership of their own choice. The people should be able, under satisfactory conditions and in an atmosphere of peace, to elect freely their delegates so that that they can decide on all issues.

Under the present conditions where the Islamic State of Afghanistan has called for talks and understanding and the special envoy of the UN secretary general

has again begun his mission [words indistinct], we hope that those circles who have interfered in the past will not resume their interventions in another form or shape. We see and hear whispers once again. Military coalitions formed outside our country launched military attacks against the people. With God's blessing all these military conspiracies failed because of the nation's fierce and brave resistance.

Once again, from the very circles who had launched military conspiracies in the past, we hear new murmurs of (?warmongering and efforts) to form a united opposition. [Words indistinct] and once again they wish to test their fate by embarking on fighting, military movements, and the destruction of beloved Afghanistan, which has been very badly damaged as a result of foreign interventions and conspiracies.

Once again such efforts are being made. We hope that those who intervened in Afghanistan in the past and formed groups and dispatched them to embark on destruction and pitiless massacre in Afghanistan would not embark any more on conspiracies and intervention in our country. They must know and must have known that the people of Afghanistan would give a crushing reply to every interventionist from wherever side he came. We believe that today our people, all of our people, even those who have taken sides with the opposition and those who have fallen prey to the conspiracies and those who imagined they could make gains by launching military attacks, all came to this conclusion that fighting is no longer in the interest of any side.

We hope that interventions in our country will end, the peace moves will rapidly progress, and the ground be prepared for finding a solution to all issues by talks and understanding. We ask the special envoy of the UN secretary general, the OIC, the countries who want peace and security in Afghanistan and have launched sympathetic endeavors for achieving peace, all countries [word indistinct] and international organizations, we call on all of them to assist us [words indistinct].

Once again, I recall with appreciation the efforts made by dear lecturers and Kabul University; and I wish Almighty God to make you successful in this enormously useful program you are working on. May peace and the blessings of God be upon you.

Groups Cast Doubt on UN Envoy Peace Mission

LD1501155396 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Pashto 1230 GMT 15 Jan 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Mahmud Mestiri, UN special envoy to Afghanistan, has said that he will be submitting new ideas and proposals to end the fighting in Afghanistan and to resolve the problems in that country.

An IRNA correspondent in Islamabad reports that Mahmud Mestiri refused to give the details of his new ideas and proposals during a news conference. He added that his suggestions do not mean new proposals.

On the 28-member council, which Mestiri introduced two months ago, he said: A series of changes will be introduced in the council after consultation with the Afghan parties. The council was supposed to receive power from Borhanoddin Rabbani's government, but it was rejected by the Taleban and other opponents of the government.

Mahmod Mestiri once again asked the involved Afghan groups to agree to a cease-fire in order to start peace talks. The UN envoy to Afghanistan arrived in Islamabad last Friday to start the sixth round of his mission on resolving the Afghan problem. He did not achieve success in this respect in his previous five rounds of talks.

Our correspondent in Peshawar has sent us the following report on this subject.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified correspondent] Mahmud Mestiri said that he would put forward [words indistinct] proposals to the Afghan parties in order that the ground is prepared for a transfer of power from President Borhanoddin Rabbani. Before leaving Islamabad for Kabul yesterday, he said: My proposals should not be considered as a new peace plan. The UN envoy added: I have held preliminary talks with some Afghan leaders and they have also submitted some plans and proposals to me.

At the beginning all [words indistinct] parties were optimistic about Mahmud Mestiri's efforts and considered his peace mission a key to resolving the Afghan problem. Because his efforts have not produced a result during the past two years, now most of the Afghans are of the opinion that only an intra-Afghan understanding will resolve the problem. Observers believe that the Afghan problem became more complicated when the Taleban appeared on the scene and confronted the Kabul administration instead of the High Coordination Council.

Now that the Taleban have not been able to capture Kabul and Kabul has gained some political leverage through its peace proposals, the Taleban movement has been forced to soften its stance, and to accept talks instead of insisting on a military solution. However, the Taleban insists on monopolizing political power. This demand does not comply with the wishes of the people and the UN role in principle.

Most Afghan groups and observers say that Mahmud Mestiri does not have a peace plan, nor is he capable of coordinating the Afghan groups plans. Therefore, every

time he comes to the region, bloody fighting starts. Mahmud Mestiri arrived in Islamabad last Friday to resume his peace mission. It is planned that he will go to Qandahar after paying a visit to Kabul. [end recording]

Hezb-e Wahdat Official on U.S. 'Plots' Against Iran
LD1301211996 Tehran IRNA in English
2041 GMT 13 Jan 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kabul, Jan. 13, IRNA — A senior Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami [Islamic Unity Party] official here today denounced the U.S. plots against the Islamic Republic and termed the recent decision of the U.S. Congress to finance subversive activities against Iran, as an indication of the fear of global arrogance from the spread of the pure monotheistic ideology.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad Akbari in an interview with IRNA said Iran has a *wazm* place in the hearts of world Muslims and that any hostility against Islamic Iran, will entail a severe response from the ummah particularly by the Hizballah forces.

"The U.S. has made no secret of its hostility towards Islam and the latest step (sanctioning of the *dlrs.* 20 million budget) is yet another proof that American statesmen are dead scared of the Islamic movements which are struggling for the cause of humanitarian values," Akbari pointed out.

It is a clear sign of Washington's weakness and political bankruptcy in dealing with Muslim freedom lovers, he added.

Akbari was confident that like all previous U.S. plots, this one too will rebound scandalously in Washington's face.

Acting Prime Minister Criticizes Pakistan

LD1601221996 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network
in Pashto 1530 GMT 16 Jan 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Engineer Ahmad Shah Ahmadzai, acting prime minister, has described the dispatch of a Pakistani delegation to Kandahar as open interference in our country's internal affairs.

The esteemed acting prime minister, who delivered a speech 16 January at the Koran recital of the Jam'iyat-e Eslami's [Islamic Society] organization department, said: In designing evil plans, Benazir Bhutto's government, without authority, is making economic and political use of free and independent Afghanistan without regard to the force of international law.

He added: Pakistan's actions against our country will bring nothing to Pakistan's Government except defeat

and shame as our enemies have suffered. [passage omitted]

Hezb-e Wahdat Leader Appeals for End to Fighting
LD1301222796 Tehran IRNA in English
2207 GMT 13 Jan 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kabul, Jan. 13, IRNA — A senior official of the Afghanistan's Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami [Islamic Unity Party], Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad Akbari, in his interview with IRNA here today deplored the current fratricide in his country and called for negotiated settlement of the crisis in the spirit of Islamic brotherhood.

He said that following the Iranian mediation efforts, he has instructed forces under his command to heed the call for peace and show friendly and brotherly attitudes towards other Afghan factions.

Referring to a 12-point accord inked earlier in Tehran between the two wings of the Hezb-e Wahdat, Akbari added that he was committed to the accord, which he said, is in the interests of the Afghani people for bringing end to the senseless clashes.

Hezb-e Wahdat Official Calls For Party Unity

LD1401173996 Tehran IRNA in English
1600 GMT 14 Jan 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kabul, Jan. 14, IRNA — Head of Afghanistan's Supreme Supervisory Council of Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami [Islamic Unity Party], Ayatollah Fazel said here on Sunday that the party should regain its integration and unity.

Speaking in an interview with IRNA, he said the two wings of the party should observe the Islamic and national commitment to serve the dignity of Shiite Muslims in Afghanistan.

The Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami leader said the leader of the Islamic revolution, Ayatollah Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i has forbidden the infighting especially between Shiite Muslims and it is incumbent on all Muslims to follow the religious decrees of the leader of the Islamic revolution.

He said the problems in Afghanistan could not be solved through military means and called on the belligerent parties to welcome the domestic and international peace efforts in Afghanistan.

He appreciated the peace efforts of the Islamic Republic of Iran to restore peace and security in Afghanistan and urged that Iran continue its efforts to form a central government in Kabul accepted by all groups.

Government Urges Warring Factions Toward Peace

*LD1501121696 Tehran IRNA in English
1144 GMT 15 Jan 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kabul, Jan. 15, IRNA — Afghan Government called upon all warring factions in the country to set aside differences and assist Kabul in solving the Afghan crisis.

Supreme Council of the Afghan Government, the highest decision making body in the country, in its Sunday sitting appealed to all the groups to grasp the sensitivity of the present condition of Afghanistan and help the government restore peace to the country.

In the meeting, presided over by President Borhanoddin Rabbani, it was emphasized that the Afghan crisis has no military solution and must be resolved through political means.

All the participants in the session agreed upon the fact that the Afghan Government's initiatives in finding peaceful solution to the country's civil war has been very encouraging.

The process of the peace talks with the opposition groups in the Nangarhar, Bamian and Balkh Provinces was also discussed by the participants.

The issue of recent talks between the Afghan and Pakistani officials, held in three rounds in border area of Torkham, was another main topic discussed in the meeting.

HSC Discusses Current Political, Military Situation

*LD1401211896 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network
in Pashto 1530 GMT 14 Jan 96*

[FBIS Translated Text] The High State Council (HSC) of the Islamic State of Afghanistan held a session this morning. The secretariat of the HSC reported to us that during this session the political and military situation of the country and recent developments were discussed. It was asserted that on the whole, a suitable atmosphere has come about for solving the problems and achieving stability of the situation across the country. The recent government drive to hold direct talks with the related forces has sped up political moves. In the light of the recent positive measures by the government to achieve a political solution to the problems, the HSC asked all parties and related forces to speed up [words indistinct] across the country in the light of the government initiatives and proposals, taking into account the high national interests of the country at this critical juncture. The HSC once again indicated the ineffectiveness of armed clashes and military confrontations. To meet the need of the compatriots, especially the residents of Kabul, in today's session, the HSC gave specific

tasks to the government and other related organs in connection with urgent action in this respect. In today's session a number of other issues were also discussed and necessary decisions were made.

Women's Movement Condemns U.S. 'Colonialistic Goals'

*LD1501154596 Tehran IRNA in English
1433 GMT 15 Jan 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kabul, Jan. 15, IRNA — Afghan Women's Islamic Movement on Monday condemned the U.S. allocation of 20 million dollars for terrorist and subversive operations against Iran, calling on international bodies to show reaction in this respect.

The weekly ALMOMENAT, organ of the movement in its latest edition wrote that once the U.S. has falsely accused Iran of supporting terrorism, but today the U.S. is officially prepared to carry out terrorist operations against Iran.

The weekly further wrote that this new U.S. plot will backfire as before, stressing that powerful countries should not impose their colonialistic goals on other by using force.

The Afghan Women's Islamic Movement called on international organizations and the human rights bodies to stand against the spread of state terrorism in the world.

India

Ministers To Face Charges in Money Deal Case

*BK1601145896 Delhi All India Radio Network
in English 1430 GMT 16 Jan 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The CBI [Central Bureau of Investigation] has sought permission from the center to prosecute three cabinet ministers — Mr. V.C. Shukla, Mr. Madhavrao Scindia and Dr. Bai Ram Jakhar — in the hawala [illegal money transfer] case. A CBI spokesman said in New Delhi today that charge-sheets were also filed against seven politicians, including the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] president, Mr. L.K. Advani, and the leader of the breakaway Congress faction, Mr. Arjun Singh. Others against whom charge-sheets have been filed include Mr. Devi Lal, Mr. Arif Mohammad Khan, Mr. Kalpnath Rai, and Mr. Yashwant Sinha.

Embassy Spokesman Comments on Missile Program

BK1701090896 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 17 Jan 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A spokesman of the Indian Embassy in Washington has maintained that New Delhi's missile program is entirely based on indigenous technology. Reacting to some misgivings by the Clinton Administration regarding India's nuclear program, he said their deployment will depend on the country's legitimate security requirement. He said India's concern about the consequences of missile proliferation in South Asia is well-known.

Committee Formed for Release of Kashmir Hostages

BK1501162996 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 15 Jan 96

[FBIS Translated Text] In the Indian occupied Kashmir, leader of All Parties Hurriyat Conference, Mir Waiz Maulvi Omar Farooq, has announced the formation of a committee to secure release of four western hostages from Al-Faran. Talking to BBC, Maulvi Omar Farooq said that this committee was set up a few weeks ago and it was trying to establish contacts with Al-Faran.

Crew of French Vessel Arrested in Kerala

BK1201033696 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 12 Jan 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In Kerala, the Kochi city police yesterday arrested six crew members of a French sailing vessel and a native of Goa for violating Maritime Zone of India Act. The police also seized documents containing survey details of the strategic installations in Kochi from the arrested persons. The city commissioner of police has asked for a CBI [Central Bureau of Investigation] inquiry into the matter.

Rao Comments on Ties With U.S., Brown Amendment

BK1101163096 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 11 Jan 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The prime minister has said that India is working to strengthen Indo-U.S. relations in all ways possible. This was conveyed by Mr. Narasimha Rao to the U.S. Congressman, Mr. Gary Ackerman, when he called on him in New Delhi today. Referring to the Brown Amendment, Mr. Rao said that it could trigger an arms race in the region and affect India's concentration on developmental activities.

Enron Dispute Linked to 'Economic Nationalism'

BK1601081496 Delhi BUSINESS STANDARD in English 15 Jan 96 p 15

[Article by Jay Dubashi: "Dabhol Shows the Way"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Can the Enron case be treated as closed? It is a classic case of how not to deal with foreign investors, though one doubts whether the powers that be have really learnt their lesson.

There are two ways of dealing with foreign investors. You can treat them as business partners, which is what they are, or as economic saviours, which they are not. The reforming fraternity, led by Dr Manmohan Singh and NKP Salve, have been treating them as saviours, and not as business partners, which is why their approach to the whole business of foreign investment creates complications.

It may or may not be true that the new deal with Enron will end up in a saving of Rs [rupees] 25,000 crore for the Maharashtra electricity consumer. But the fact remains that the loudest voices against the state government's decision to review the original contract were raised by this ministerial duo from Delhi, long before the contract was scrapped.

Mr Salve had said that the contract was the best that could have been negotiated under the circumstances, though he never explained what these special circumstances were. He also gave the impression that Enron, and by implication other foreign investors, were doing a favour to us by deigning to offer their services, and if not treated properly they would keep away from India and we would lose their services along with the cash. It is this cringing attitude towards foreign investors which is responsible for the wide-spread backlash against them, and the lingering "swadeshi" [indigenous] quarters against their presence in India.

The Enron contract was stopped in its track in March this year and scrapped five months later in August. But there is little evidence that foreign investors have been scared away. Enron certainly wasn't.

Even before the ink was dry on the cancellation notice, Enron had said that it was ready to renegotiate the contract, and fresh negotiations began within weeks, if not days, of the cancellation. Rebecca Mark moved heaven and earth to get the whole thing going again, and within a few weeks the negotiation machinery was in place.

The cancellation of Enron led to rethinking on other power projects too, including the ones in Karnataka and Orissa, but nobody walked out. There were no second thoughts on the part of foreign investors on projects

other than power. And, as far as I know nobody said that he was walking out because of Enron, although a few murmurs were heard in London and Washington clubs.

It is said that Ford Motor Company decided to go south to Tamil Nadu for its new passenger car project with the Mahindras because of Enron. But I am told that this is not the case. Ford preferred to go to Madras because the state government there offered better facilities, not because of the alleged scare created by Enron.

Foreign direct investment (FDI) in India, a more sensitive indicator of foreign investment than portfolio inflow, is likely to touch \$2.5 billion this year, nearly double last year's figure of \$1.3 billion. If Enron and Kentucky Fried Chicken had not happened, would things have been better? I doubt it. Salve & Co said that the scrapping of Enron sent a wrong signal to foreign investors. I don't think it did. On the other hand, it sent the right signal, the kind Singapore and China send from time to time. China behaves much more roughly with foreigners than India, or, for that matter, any other country in this part of the world about it has made no difference at all to the volume of foreign investment pouring into China. Last year, China took in as much as \$26 billion, nearly 20 times what we did, although I must say we are latecomers to this business.

Let us also not forget that there is a school of thought which maintains that Enrons are not really necessary since we have all the expertise and technology in the world to set up power stations on our own and do not really need any help from outside. After all, we have put up several such power stations on our own in the past. Why do we need Enron now?

The answer is simple. Expertise and technology are not enough; we need capital too. And since we are not able to generate enough of it on our own, there is no other way but to obtain it from outside, at least until such time as there is sufficient capital of our own.

If companies like Enron are willing to make up the shortage, well and good. But it's a two-way deal. Companies like Enron depend almost entirely on markets like India and China for their business, as there is no market for their services in their own countries. This is why Enron moves heaven and earth to grab projects like Dabhol. The competition is so keen that these companies have not only to "educate" some of our politicians and bureaucrats on the subject but draw on the full might of their governments to see the contract through.

This is what Enron did in Mozambique recently where, according to press reports, it faced tough competition in landing a contract for a gas field. The Clinton

administration threatened to cut off aid to Mozambique unless the contract went to Enron, and mounted a major lobbying campaign in which diplomats, senators and even national security adviser Anthony Lake took part. If this is what they are prepared to do for a small contract in an African country, what will they not do to land lucrative deal like Dabhol.

Are we succumbing to such pressures in India too? This is what economic nationalism is all about — the ability to stand up to foreign pressures which not only vitiate and compromise our economic autonomy, but also undermine economic viability of our projects. In the final analysis, this is also what the Enron dispute is all about, and which is why it made and still makes world headlines. And I am not sure we have heard the last of it.

Delhi Seeks Deportation of Bombay Blast Suspect

*BK1301115996 Delhi All India Radio Network
in English 0245 GMT 13 Jan 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Central Bureau of Investigation [CBI] is to seek the deportation of Anees Ibrahim Keshkar, a key accused in the Bombay blast case, from Bahrain to India.

A CBI spokesman said in New Delhi that a special task force is preparing documents for this purpose. Anees Ibrahim, brother of Dawood Ibrahim the prime accused in the case, was arrested in Bahrain on Wednesday [10 January]. The spokesman said a high-level team will leave for Bahrain in the next few days to interrogate Anees Ibrahim.

Canadian Prime Minister on 'Trade Mission'

Pushes Non-Proliferation Treaty

*LD1101150896 Montreal Radio Canada International
in English 1430 GMT 11 Jan 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Canada's prime minister has urged India's top leaders to renounce nuclear weapons. Jean Chretien said every country should sign the international nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, a treaty which India has refused to endorse.

[Begin Chretien recording] You know, it's not a question of accepting or not. We want everybody to sign it, and we hope that India will find a way to be able to accept it. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Mr. Chretien's statement came on the second day of his trade mission to the region. The Canadian prime minister is accompanied by the prime ministers of seven of Canada's 10 provinces, as well as by some 300

business leaders. The 12-day tour will also stop in Pakistan, Indonesia, and Malaysia.

Meets Rao, Narayanan; Signs MOUs

BK1101162196 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 11 Jan 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] India and Canada have signed four Memoranda of Understanding on cooperation in the fields of telecommunication, transport, energy, and justice. These agreements were signed in New Delhi this evening soon after the delegation-level talks between the prime minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao, and the visiting Canadian prime minister, Mr. Jean Chretien. Earlier, the two prime ministers had a one-to-one meeting for nearly 40 minutes. Both the countries have also signed an agreement on avoidance of double taxation. They also agreed for the transfer of convicted offenders.

The Canadian prime minister also called on the president, Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma, and the vice president, Dr. K.R. Narayanan. During his meetings, he hoped that the bilateral trade will double in the next two years.

Earlier, on his arrival in New Delhi this morning, Mr. Jean Chretien expressed the hope that India will find a way to accept the Nonproliferation Treaty. He said it is not the question of Canada accepting or not accepting New Delhi's stand on the matter. He said the nonproliferation issue is very much exercising the mind of the Canadian Government and New Delhi will be invited to place its view when the meeting on the issue is held next year.

Rao on Cooperation With Canada

BK1201051596 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 12 Jan 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The prime minister has said the end of the Cold War presents new opportunities for India and Canada to work together for mutual benefit. Mr. Narasimha Rao was speaking at a banquet hosted in honor of the visiting Canadian prime minister, Mr. Jean Chretien, in New Delhi last night. Referring to the cultural diversity of both India and Canada, the prime minister said the recent referendum in Quebec brought into closer focus the importance of unity and growth of pluralistic states. Mr. Rao said that where regions, people's traditions, and customs are many and varied as in India and Canada, the nation's capacity to bring all in harmony is an accomplishment of immense value.

Earlier during the day, the two countries signed four MOU's [memorandums of understanding] on cooperation in the fields of telecommunication, transport, energy, and justice.

Joint Ventures Finalized

BK1301081496 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 12 Jan 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Possibilities for substantially expanding India-Canada cooperation has emerged following signing of several agreements.

Two leading Canadian companies have finalized a joint venture tie-up with an Indian firm to produce compressed natural gas kits and catalytic converters to control vehicular pollution. The development of roads is also likely to get a boost as several firms from the Canadian Province of Ontario have offered to invest substantially.

Developing of nonconventional oil reserves is the other area identified for the new tie-ups. This includes exploration of heavy oil belt, extending north from Bombay High and oil shells in Assam. Greater bilateral cooperation has also emerged in telecommunications, transport, taxation, and other fields.

AIR correspondent reports discussions continued for the second day between the visiting Canadian delegation and their Indian counterparts. The two sides will expand air services to give an impetus to economic cooperation. This was agreed to at a meeting between Civil Aviation Minister Mr. Ghulam Nabi Azad and the Canadian international trade minister, Mr. Roy MacLaren, in New Delhi today.

The external affairs minister, Mr. Pranab Mukherjee, called on the prime minister, Mr. Jean Chretien. Both discussed various bilateral and international issues.

Trade Expansion Areas Identified

BK1301132796 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 13 Jan 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Canada has identified energy, telecommunications, environmental services, agri food, financial services, and transportation as the main areas to expand trade relations with India.

Addressing the Indo-Canada Joint Business Council in New Delhi today, the Canadian prime minister, Mr. Jean Chretien, said his country is deeply impressed by the bold liberalization policies adopted by India. He said the reforms has served as the catalyst for increased economic and commercial cooperation between the two countries.

Referring to his discussions with the Indian leaders, Mr. Jean Chretien said he is aware of India's efforts to end the economic exploitation of children. He said Canada is committed to supporting the economic growth and literacy and education efforts that will eradicate

this scourge. He said the government and industry in Canada have developed a new strategy called focus India to coordinate the efforts of federal and provincial governments with the private sector to take advantage of new opportunities in India.

Mr. Chretien said during his current visit, agreements worth \$3.5 billion will be signed in different sectors between the two countries. Expressing the hope that trade between Canada and India will double over the next two years, he called upon businessmen to increase it four-fold in five years.

The commerce secretary, Mr. Tejinder Khanna, addressing the gathering said there has been a positive response to liberalization and Indian industry has now become more quality conscious. He said about 1,100 companies are vying for the ISO [International Organization for Standardization] series of international quality standards.

Business Deals Signed

BK1301162396 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 13 Jan 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] India and Canada have signed business deals worth over \$3 billion. This follows interaction between trade circles at the Joint Business Council meeting in New Delhi today. Over \$400 million worth business deals were already signed at Mumbai [Bombay] at the centenary meeting of Confederation of Indian Industry. Of the 47 new business agreements signed in the capital, over \$2 million were agreements in principle, including memoranda of understanding and letters of intent. About \$670 million were commercial contracts.

Addressing a joint press conference, the co-chairmen of the Joint Business Council, (Mr. Rusler), leader of the Canadian delegation, and Mr. Y.K. Modi, said the signing of new deals has opened a new era in trade relations between the two countries. They said the Joint Business Council will be upgraded to India-Canada Business Alliance to give a new thrust to trade relations. Most of the deals were made in key sectors like power, telecommunications, infrastructure, and finance. Mr. (Rusler) said India has the best rating for investment climate and the two-way trade between India and Canada will double soon. Responding to a question, he said issues like child labor, human rights, and environment are unlikely to have any impact on the growing bilateral trade.

Earlier, addressing the Indo-Canada Joint Business Council, the Canadian prime minister, Mr. Jean Chretien, said his country is impressed by the bold liberalization policies initiated by India. These reforms, he

said, have served as the catalyst for increased economic and commercial cooperation between the two countries. The Canadian prime minister will leave New Delhi tomorrow for Islamabad.

The Reserve Bank governor, Mr. Rangarajan, says the capital account convertibility will be introduced only in stages. Addressing the India-Canada Joint Business Council, he said there are some essential preconditions required for this. These includes reduction in fiscal deficit, moderation in inflation, and a flexible financial system. Calling upon the foreign business community to respond to various economic reform measures, Mr. Rangarajan said banking in India is now on the threshold of a second revolution. He asserted that the reforms introduced have begun to yield results and India's economy is now firmly set on a higher growth path. He hoped that Canada will respond to the new initiatives in economic policy in India for mutual benefit.

Joint Statement Issued

BK1501110396 Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English 0929 GMT 15 Jan 96

["Visit of the prime minister of Canada to India January 9 to 14, 1996 — Joint Statement" — ISI headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] 1. At the close of their discussions in New Delhi on January 14, 1996, Prime Ministers Narasimha Rao and Jean Chretien affirmed their commitment to revitalize the traditionally warm bilateral relationship between India and Canada. They shared a determination to provide a strong impetus for establishing close and broad-based cooperation between the two countries.

2. The two prime ministers stressed the value and mutual benefit for both countries of close and regular consultations on matters relating to the changing world situation. They agreed to expand the pace and scope of high-level exchanges and bilateral consultations on the full range of political, economic, security, commercial, science, technology and social issues. They looked forward to further and regular ministerial, head of government and head of state visits.

3. The two prime ministers expressed confidence that the agreement signed on the avoidance of double taxation and the one on bilateral investment promotion and protection in the process of finalisation would enhance business activity between the two sides. They welcomed the conclusion of other memoranda of understanding, including those on cooperation in energy, telecommunications and surface transport.

4. The two leaders agreed that the ongoing economic reforms and liberalisation in India provided vast oppor-

tunities for intensifying trade and investment between India and Canada. They noted that Canada's impressive capacities in power, transportation, telecommunications, environment and food processing were well matched to Indian needs, and indicated that every effort should be made by both sides to expand and facilitate business ventures. They also took note of the unique opportunities which the Canadian market offers to Indian exporters and the important investment opportunities which existed for India in Canada.

5. The two leaders commended the role of Canadians of Indian origin, whose dynamism has made an outstanding contribution to the prosperity and quality of life in their new home. They agreed that this large, diversified and vibrant community constituted an important and valuable bond of friends.

Trade Information Agreement Signed With Ontario

*BK1201110796 Delhi All India Radio Network
in English 0830 GMT 12 Jan 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] India and Canada have emphasized the need to further improve airline services between the two countries. This was discussed when the Canadian international trade minister, Mr. Roy MacLaren, called on the civil aviation minister, Mr. Ghulam Nabi Azad, in New Delhi today. The two leaders discussed enhancing air seat capacity and cooperation in other civil aviation projects. The minister of state for civil aviation, Mr. G.Y. Krishnan, and the civil aviation secretary were also present.

India and the business community of Canada's most populous state, Ontario, have signed an agreement to exchange a wide range of information on trade opportunities. The MOU [Memorandum of Understanding] between the Ontario Ministry of Economic Development, Trade and Tourism and the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry, FICCI, was signed by the Ontario premier, Mr. Mike Harris, in New Delhi today. It will enable FICCI to provide entrepreneurs in Canada access to its business information service, which includes a directory of tens of thousands of Indian companies. FICCI will also make available databases on government policies, business news, and information on Indian firms interested in doing business with foreign companies.

Iran's Velayati Continues Official Visit

Meets Islamic Association Members

*NC1301113896 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic
of Iran First Program Network in Persian
0430 GMT 13 Jan 96*

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Dr. Velayati who is on a visit to India, held separate meetings with members of various Islamic associations in the country yesterday.

According to IRNA, during these meetings, Dr. Velayati described the Islamic Republic of Iran as the base of the Muslims of the world and added: Islamic Iran has a strong government that administers the country on the basis of Islamic values. The Muslims of the world who are part of the whole body of Islam enjoy the support and reverence of Islamic Iran.

According to this report, representatives of various organizations and groups gave speeches at these meetings, describing the enemies of the Islamic Republic of Iran as enemies of Islam and all Muslims. They expressed their support for the Islamic system of Iran against U.S. plots.

Talks With Mukherjee

*BK1301120096 Delhi All India Radio Network
in English 0830 GMT 13 Jan 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] India and Iran have agreed to strengthen their ties in several fields. Expansion of trade and economic cooperation was the focus of talks between the external affairs minister, Mr. Pranab Mukherjee, and the Iranian foreign minister, Mr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati, in New Delhi this morning. Regional and international matters also came up for discussion. The talks assume significance as India is poised to expand trade and economic relations with Central Asian countries using Iran for transit.

Discusses Cooperation With Rao

*BK1301153596 Delhi All India Radio Network
in English 1430 GMT 13 Jan 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] India and Iran have expressed their resolve to expand bilateral cooperation substantially. The matter came up for detailed discussion when the visiting Iranian foreign minister, Mr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati, called on the prime minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao, in New Delhi this evening. Both noted that bilateral trade has gone up appreciably and cooperation in various programs, including fertilizer projects, are progressing well.

Mr. Rao expressed the hope that the Indo-Iran Joint Commission will meet soon to give a stimulus to various areas of cooperation.

Iran

Velayati on U.S. Sanctions, Turkey, European Ties

NC0701132896 *Mashhad KHORASAN in Persian*
27 Dec 95 p 4

[FBIS Translated Text] The foreign minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran has denied rumors that he had decided to run as a candidate in the coming presidential elections. He said: I will not be a candidate in the coming presidential elections. Dr. Velayati, who was speaking at a question-and-answer session at Emam Sadeq University, went on to refer to the U.S. Congress' recent decision to allocate anti-Iranian funds, saying that this is aimed at intensifying psychological warfare against Tehran following the defeat of Washington's heavy sanctions against Iran.

He added: They have only managed to draw their allies' disagreement, so much so that the World Trade Organization recently said that America is acting contrary to world trade regulations.

The foreign minister then spoke about America's giving the green light to Iran and the future of bilateral relations between the two countries. He said: We have not seen any green light. They do not want any non-secular administrations to exist in the world. We can say that the American rulers are in the hands of the Zionists and that they use America as a means to attack Iran.

Commenting on the victory of Turkey's Welfare Party, he said: This is an unprecedented phenomenon since the Ataturk era. Apparently the other parties will form an alliance against the Welfare Party.

On the Islamic Republic's policy toward the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council, the foreign minister said: Naturally we have different types of relations with each of the six members; our best relations are with Oman and Qatar.

He added: Tehran has good relations with Kuwait, and mediocre relations with Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, and the United Arab Emirates.

Commenting on a German prosecutor issuing an arrest warrant for Mr. Fallahian, Mr. Velayati said: The prosecutor may say whatever he wants, but what he says is not accepted by Germany's official circles.

He said: If Europe wants to create a better image of itself in the hearts of the Muslims, it should open relations with Iran. The country that has the biggest say in the world of Islam is Iran.

Asked if the Dr. Soroush issue created a problem for Iran's foreign policy, Dr. Velayati said: Yes. If a person wants to serve the people, he should calculate whether his remarks will be noted around the world. He should realize that the enemies of this country use such remarks against us, and it is only fair for him to abstain from making such remarks.

The foreign minister added: There is no place for serious remarks in public places, to bring up such issues to the press and public circles, to create scandals, and to weaken the pillars of independence, national harmony, and government. This is not in service to the nation, but to the enemy.

Rafsanjani: West's 'Greed' Harmful to Central Asia

LD1601221396 *Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian*
2030 GMT 16 Jan 96

[Announcer-read report]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, addressing dignitaries, diplomats, and political researchers from 19 countries of the world, said: The people of Central Asia and Caucasus can no longer put up with the losses inflicted by the expansionist policies of the West in the region.

According to a report of the Central News Unit, the president was speaking on Tuesday night at a meeting in Tehran attended by more than 2,000 research workers, experts, and political officials from the Asian and European countries, as well as from Central Asia and Caucasus. He said: The greed for gaining more profit from the rich resources of the region has created a big squabble among the colonial countries, and the region is suffering the consequences.

The president added: If the West wishes to help the people of the region, it should not dictate its colonial policies. It should allow the newly independent countries to make up their own mind, for they well know what is best for them.

Referring to the role and the importance of the Caspian Sea in development of the region's communication, economy, environment, resources, and climate, he said: Ignoring the pollution level in the Caspian Sea will bring added pollution from oil wells in the future, and the region will incur heavy losses.

The president called upon the regional states and international organizations responsible for protection of the environment to support programs for cleansing the Caspian Sea.

President Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: We attach the same importance to the security of the Caspian Sea as the Persian Gulf. He described these two strategic regions of the world as highly significant and added: The Islamic Republic of Iran, as a country that owns the most sensitive parts of the Persian Gulf and the Caspian Sea coasts, will employ all its efforts to safeguard the region's security, tranquillity, progress, and prosperity.

Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: The countries of the region have today realized that U.S. allegations to the effect that the Islamic republic is a threat to the region are baseless claims. They know well that Iran has contributed to reduction of tension in the region and establishment of peace, tranquillity, growth, and development.

He added: The Islamic Republic of Iran's policy regarding Central Asia and Caucasus is based on witnessing that these newly independent republics develop into independent and powerful states, which live in peace and far from any crisis with their neighbors, including Russia.

Concerning Russia's role in the region, the president said: America cannot overlook Russia's sensitive role, because the Caucasus and the Central Asian countries, due to their long dependence upon the Russian economy, satisfy a great part of their needs from that country.

Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani stressed: The existence of friendly relations between Russia and the newly independent republics is in the interest of all countries. He added: The people of the region and the Westerners should not allow the relations between the newly independent countries and their neighbors, including Russia, to be strained to safeguard the interests of America or any other country.

Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: The Caucasus and Central Asian countries are so rich and vibrant [puya] that they do not require any compassion [tarrahom] from either America or others. Therefore, the countries that wish to cooperate with the newly independent countries should heed the interests of the people of those Central Asian countries. He added: The Islamic Republic of Iran has based its relations with the newly independent countries upon mutual interests.

The president also said: The relations and cooperation between Iran and the newly independent countries are in the interest of all countries, including Russia and Iran.

Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani stressed: The southern and northern Iranian ports have been equipped to offer a diverse range of services and provide for the needs

of the newly independent republics, and Iran is fully prepared to expand its cooperation with the region.

At the start of this meeting, Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati submitted a report about the outcome of the three-day seminar on "Security and Foreign Policy in Central Asia and the Caucasus." In a part of his speech he said: The Caucasus and Central Asia are faced with many crises and threats, but these can be overcome by understanding the real reasons behind those crises and threats and by resorting to peaceful means and avoiding the logic of force and violence. [passage omitted]

Jannati Condemns U.S. in Friday Prayers

LD0501132396 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran Provincial Network in Persian
0823 GMT 5 Jan 96

[Second Friday prayers sermon by Ayatollah Ahmad Jannati, senior member of the Guardian Council, in Tehran — live]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. [passage omitted]

The topic of the day, which has repeatedly been discussed and is gradually becoming an old story, and about which I only want to say a few words, is the unpleasant and disgusting policy adopted by the American Congress on allocating \$20 million for subversive and destructive activities in the Islamic Republic of Iran.

It is not a new issue to allocate funds for such activities. They have so far spent a hundred times more than this sum for similar incidents, such as the incident in Tabas and other incidents. The CIA's covert budgets are being used on these kinds of activities. They look and see which country does not succumb to them and which one is not under their control, and furthermore, if a country were to confront them slightly, then they spent money to overthrow through killing, bloodshed, or by creating tension and provoking people against each other. This is what they do, and it is not a new thing. The \$20 million is not such a great sum of money to overthrow a government, even one weaker than here.

The question is, however, what do they want to achieve through this? I don't know the answer exactly. One thing that comes to my mind is that the Americans probably want to gradually make the issue [their funding] official. As a superpower who wants to watch over the entire world, who wants everyone to obey it, America intends officially to declare that if any power or person, anywhere and in any country, were to disobey the order of the White House, then it would officially allocate budgets to overthrow them, that America fears nothing.

This is an international disgrace. That is one side of it, that they now not only allocate a covert budget but also include the allocation of funds for this purpose in their overt budget.

The other side of the issue is to encourage a number of sold-out and mercenary people to come forward and tell them that we pay you and you should go and get involved in espionage and destructive activities and continue the activities that you have been doing so far but do more. This is to encourage these kinds of people.

Another issue is to intimidate us. At a time when we are under pressure from all corners, this is yet another pressure. I don't know what is their other intention. Clearly we are not frightened by such things. If we were frightened of the people dispatching sabotage to here, we would have already halted all our tasks. Didn't you plant bombs during Friday prayers and cause injuries to the bodies of those performing prayers and make their limbs scatter everywhere, even hanging over trees. Didn't you plant bombs in the office of the Islamic republic? Didn't you do the same in the office of the prime minister? Didn't you carry out bombing on the streets, in buses, in Imam [Husayn] shrine? This is not a new thing. We are not afraid of such things. I assure you if you do 10 times more than what you are doing, our people are not the kind to be frightened even slightly by you. [passage omitted]

The Americans spend this money on their objectives, but one day, when they suffer defeat, they will start to regret it. It will be the Americans and not us who will suffer defeat. Their move will introduce them as a country that commits crimes and acts of treason and has no respect for international laws. This will harm you, not us.

However, an important question is: what is it that we should be frightened of? [passage omitted] Do not be frightened of enemies, but remain fearful of me. What is the meaning of being frightened of God? It means that we should not do anything to cause his wrath. [passage omitted]

We should be frightened of certain wrong things that might cause the wrath of God. We should be frightened of the trend where committed Muslim revolutionaries, who have been to the front and have experience in revolutionary affairs, are pushed aside and replaced by apathetic and non-committed individuals who do not know anything about the basics of the revolution; that is to say, people who are always waiting for a weakness to appear in the Islamic Republic of Iran's system so that they can join hands with the enemy. We should be frightened of such a trend.

I have repeatedly said before that I consider this as a great danger; that is to say, the danger of taking important tasks out of the hands of committed Muslim revolutionaries who are prepared to safeguard this revolution, even if they have to sacrifice their lives, and delegate these tasks to people who do not care for Islam and the revolution and are only concerned for themselves, their friends and colleagues.

This trend exists in some places, for instance, in certain universities. While I respect some ministries and universities for the good work they do, and while I am aware that we have many good students, managers, and officials, I still believe certain trends are in progress in a number of places, and if we fail to prevent these trends, they will engulf us like a raging flood. Delegating tasks to people who are unsuitable, or people whose credentials have been completely rejected ...[pauses] It has been seen that the suitability of someone occupying some official post has been rejected by the central recruitment office. Some people whose ill-reputation is known are appointed to sensitive posts, and sometimes, moreover, such individuals are promoted to higher posts.

A dire strait is thereby created for the Hezbollahis. One cannot believe sometimes that certain individuals are in fact appointed to certain key posts. I know of a certain individual at a key post in a university who criticizes everyone starting from Ali Ibn Abi-Talib [Shi'i first Imam] and his book, Nahj al-Balaghah, right through to Imam Ja'far Sadiq [sixth Imam] and the clergy. Why should this individual occupy a key position in the universities?

There are also others who take part in interviews with American newspapers and say bad things about his holiness, the Imam [Khomeyni], but are still given key responsibilities.

What will people who lack revolutionary credentials do once they occupy a key post? Will they not merely invite others who share their beliefs and schools of thought to rally around them?

I want to advise all people who are somehow involved in the affairs of the universities to study the admonitions on the topic of universities offered by Imam in his will and testament. We can never forget and neglect the Imam's line and his school of thought. We cannot forget the person who saved Islam and an Islamic country from the tight grip of blasphemy. [passage omitted]

If people, who are being trained in university, don't possess a revolutionary spirit and an Islamic commitment, tomorrow when all tasks concerning the Hezbollahis will be dealt by these people. Then, how do they

deal with them? At that time when they decide to allocate posts, who will they appoint to these posts? Who will be happy then? Will it make America happy or the people? America does not insist it must defeating us today, it will be very happy even if it could plan to defeat us in the next 20 years. We should focus our attention at the situation in the next 10, 20, 30, 50 years in the country. We cannot afford to just leave things and let whatever happens to happen.

The Hezbollahis are truly grinning and bearing it. They are continuously coming to us and complaining. We sometimes remind them, but our comments don't have any effect. We are forced to say it loud so that deaf ears could hear them.

I hope we all will be able to focus our attention. This is one thing that has made me feel a little more uneasy, otherwise, we all should focus our attention. We should also think about a situation when the prices of potatoes are becoming a problem for the people. Unless they come across some meat now and then, those poor families who could not afford to buy chickens or meats want to purchase potatoes for their children. If they are unable to purchase even potatoes, then what should they do? One should very quickly attend to these issues and should not allow the prices to rise to such an extent. One should quickly prevent the price rises. One should do something about it. I know that they are working on it. I know that there are some controls over many prices. I don't want to ignore good works and be ungrateful. I appreciate their work. God bless them for the work they have carried out and services they have offered. They had some successes, and I appreciate their work. Ultimately when a deprived strata with low income comes under pressure, one should do something about it. We should see what is the reason behind it. Why suddenly the prices of certain goods are rising by 20 percent, 30 percent, 40 percent, or 50 percent. What is the cause of it and why it is happening?

I apologize that sometimes I talk at such length, especially when the weather is unduly cold or hot. This is not because I am a talkative person, but the reason is that I want the proper time of prayers to approach. We are now very near to that time.

This brings me to some advice I want to offer. Whenever the Friday prayers are staged under harsh or adverse weather conditions, I become very concerned about these sisters [women taking part in the prayers in their own segregated segment]. I want to call on well-meaning people and charities to come forward and build a roof here so that these sisters are not too exposed.

Some improvement work needs to be done on the site of the Friday prayers. Praise be to God, we have many

philanthropists in this country who willingly spend various sums of money for the people. However, 17 years since the victory of the Islamic revolution, why is it that the site of the Friday prayers should be in such a condition that I should always worry about the people who have to sit on the ground without any roof over their heads?

I hope that we do something about this. We must ensure that the people are content. Our dear people are honest and noble, and they are committed to the revolution, the Imam [Khomeyni], and the leadership. This spirit should be safeguarded. The people's enthusiasm and their presence on the scenes should be maintained and enhanced.

We hope that God willing, this revolutionary spirit and commitment to the revolution and jihad may remain with us forever until the advent of the Lord of the Age [Shi'i 12th Imam]. [passage omitted]

Majles Deputy: U.S. Sanctions 'Totally Failed'

*LD1601101796 Tehran IRNA in English
0934 GMT 16 Jan 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Jan 16 (IRNA) — The U.S. administration has totally failed in its efforts to paralyze the Iranian economy through imposing economic sanctions against the Islamic Republic of Iran, said Majles Deputy from Tehran Mohsen Yahyavi here Tuesday [16 January].

In an interview with the English daily TEHRAN TIMES Yahyavi, who is also a member of the Majles Oil Committee, added that the Iranian nation has gone through many ordeals and now is more than ever determined to stick to its goals and fundamental beliefs.

Yahyavi added that the world is now well convinced that the U.S. economic embargo on Iran has only weakened the American security and economy.

More on the ineffectiveness of the U.S. anti-Iran measures, he referred to the symposium attended by 143 representatives of foreign and domestic oil companies last November and the government allocation of some 6.5 billion dollars mainly on buy-back terms during the Second 5-year Development Plan.

Expounding on OPEC activities, Yahyavi said that the organization is currently exporting one million barrels more than its approved quota which, according to him, should be curbed in order to rise its price in the world market.

Yahyavi regretted that the price of OPEC oil in the free market does not reflect its real price or value.

"Our aim is to obtain the real price. Considering OPEC as an economic and political organization, it is crucial to identify all the political and economic factors affecting OPEC activities and try to maintain the powers being enjoyed by this organization," he concluded.

Nateq-Nuri on Majles Funds To Counter U.S. 'Plots'

LD1101185596 *Tehran IRNA in English*
1830 GMT 11 Jan 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Qom, Jan. 11, IRNA — Majles Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri disclosed here today that a special budget of rls. 25 billion has been allocated in the next fiscal year (starting 21 March) for countering American plots against Iran.

Addressing an assembly of ulema and missionaries in this holy city, Nateq-Nuri said the budget is to be placed at the disposal of the Supreme National Security Council which will spend a part of it for filing a lawsuit against the recent U.S. decision to sanction dlr. 20 million for sabotage against Iran.

"Iran, because of its being the inspiration behind Islamic movements around the world, has drawn the anger of global arrogance," he said.

The speaker dismissed as "futile" the U.S. plots against Islamic Iran and added that from past experiences it is clear that such conspiracies will have no effect on the principled and logical objectives of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Turning to the U.S. economic plots against the country, he said that despite the U.S. trade boycott, Iran has succeeded in selling more oil to its customers during the current calendar year.

Nateq-Nuri concluded that today Iran enjoys economic and political firmness more than ever before, and that no conspiracy will be able to make a dent in the objectives of the Islamic Republic.

In a provocative move which betrays Washington's scant disregard for international laws, the U.S. Congress sanctioned a budget of dlr. 20 million to undermine the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Political observers and international legal experts have called the American decision as a blatant act of state terrorism against a sovereign, independent member of the United Nations, and have warned that the move poses threat to world peace and security of other world countries.

Habibi on Efforts To 'Harm Relations' With Neighbors

NC0601074896 *Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian*
0430 GMT 6 Dec 96

[FBIS Translated Text] First Vice President Hasan Habibi, who is visiting Hormozgan province, addressed a gathering of local clerics in Bandar-e 'Abbas last night. He said: The powers of world arrogance are seeking to prevent the Islamic Republic of Iran from being viewed as a successful model by Islamic countries.

He referred to Iran's success during the two decades after the grand Islamic Revolution in the fields of science and industry, especially in petrochemicals, construction of roads, oil platforms, and dams and mentioned the spread of education and the repayment of foreign loans as part of the Islamic Republic of Iran's achievements.

Habibi described the airing of issues such as the Janian Abu Musa island as part of the plots by the powers of world arrogance against Islamic Iran. He said: Their objective is to harm Iran's relations with its southern neighbors.

He stressed that no Iranian, regardless of his beliefs, is prepared to relinquish even an inch of his country's territory. Habibi added: The Islamic Republic of Iran's policy is based on understanding and cooperation with its neighbors but this does not mean the acceptance of force.

Last night Habibi visited a fisheries exhibition in Hormozgan province and addressed a gathering of university staff and cultural officials of the province. In his remarks he emphasized the need for a reappraisal of higher education in the country in order to align it with the needs of the time.

According to IRNA, Habibi explained that the country needs an extensive development of its higher education and universities should keep national and regional priorities in mind in their future programs.

Tehran Views Habibi Visit, Territorial Claims

NC0601093696 *Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian*
0445 GMT 6 Jan 96

[Commentary by the News Research and Commentary Group]

[FBIS Translated Text] First Vice President Hasan Habibi, who is currently on a visit to Hormozgan Province, addressed a gathering of the people of the province. Referring to the efforts by foreign powers

regarding their presence in the Persian Gulf region, he stated that the airing of such claims by the United Arab Emirates [UAE] regarding Abu Musa island stemmed from the plots of these powers.

The first vice president stressed Iran's stance, which is based on holding bilateral talks to eliminate the UAE officials' misunderstanding, and deemed it an indication of the Islamic Republic of Iran's goodwill and effort to prevent tension and instability in the region.

Dr. Habibi warned against any misinterpretation of the Islamic Republic of Iran and said: There should be no misconception regarding the Islamic Republic of Iran's goodwill and it should not be construed as an acceptance of duress. The Islamic Republic of Iran will combat plots with all its might and will never compromise its territorial integrity.

Ever since 1371 [year beginning 21 March 1992] when the UAE unexpectedly aired its claims regarding the Iranian islands in the Persian Gulf, the Islamic Republic of Iran has viewed this as a misunderstanding by the UAE officials regarding the 1971 accord and has striven to eliminate this misunderstanding by stressing bilateral talks.

Despite this, foreign powers and some of the region's countries sought to fan the misunderstandings instead of attempting to eliminate them. In the name of support for the UAE, they tried to generate a crisis in UAE-Iran relations.

Accordingly, they tried to keep the issue alive by issuing repetitive statements at their various meetings in order to capitalize on them as a lever against the Islamic Republic of Iran.

In light of the conciliatory measures by the Islamic Republic of Iran on the one hand and the efforts to escalate the issues in the Persian Gulf on the other, observers view the UAE's approach to the issue of the Iranian islands in the Persian Gulf as the result of two conflicting perspectives regarding the Persian Gulf and its security.

One is the vantage point of the Islamic Republic of Iran, which stresses the cooperation among countries for the establishment of stability and security in the region, while the other is the viewpoint of the foreign powers. The latter is supported by the United States and some of the region's countries and insists on the presence of foreign powers in the Persian Gulf to ensure the region's security. As the perspective favored by Iran stresses regional cooperation, it strives to strengthen common denominators in order to pave the way for greater cooperation in the region. The viewpoint backed by foreign powers—since it insists on the presence

of foreign powers—stresses differences and efforts to create conflicts in order to foment tension and create pretexts for the presence of foreign powers.

Political experts believe that some of the region's countries which are currently under the influence of foreign powers, support the viewpoint of a foreign presence in the region. However, this can only safeguard the interests of foreign powers. With the gradual realization of the fact that ensuring the interests of the region's nations depends on cooperation among its governments, the Islamic Republic of Iran's perspective—which supports regional cooperation—will gain strength and will provide a basis for regional relations.

SALAM Column Reflects Economic, Social Problems

WA0401203896

[FBIS Media Note] The Tehran daily SALAM carries a regular column, "Hello, SALAM" based on telephoned-in complaints and remarks of ordinary Iranian citizens. The following series of dialogues between callers and the paper are excerpted from October editions. These particular complaints deal with the elections, U.S. sanctions, Dr. Soroush's talk at Tehran University, Iraqi elections, lack of justice.

On Iran's Elections:

[Caller] How can we have impartial and untainted elections when governor generals, governors, and lieutenant governors openly campaign for special candidates? Can we hope for a clean and impartial election? [18 October 95]

[Caller] The eligibility of a candidate should be determined by the Judiciary Branch and based on an absence of any criminal record. The Council of Guardians should get involved only insofar as to make certain the elections are running properly and nothing more. Because, if the left or right wing holds the majority in the Council of Guardians, that wing can use it to its own advantage. [18 October 95]

[Caller] Usually when elections are discussed in the "Hello, SALAM" column, you speak of a particular group, even though presently in Iran there is no special group. Even if there were any, they are more concerned with their own particular interests. If you are really interested in the nation, pay attention also to independent candidates who are, by and large, more qualified.

[SALAM] No registration has taken place; no list of candidates from any group has been announced; nor is it clear who the independent candidates are. [19 October 95]

[Caller] Let those who plan to participate in the elections remember to vote for representatives who occasionally defend the dreary life of salaried individuals and warn the government to improve their economic life. [22 October 95]

On U.S. Sanctions:

[Caller] If someone insists, he cannot be believed; if he swears, people will doubt! These days we hear from every corner that our situation has improved because of the U.S. sanctions. Don't you think people will begin doubting when something is repeated so often? Everyone knows that even a sanction by Ethiopia would have an impact, not to mention one from the United States.

[SALAM] We have previously talked about this and we'll repeat again that those saying this do not mean that severance of all U.S.- Iranian ties is to our advantage. If that were the case, they would not try to establish commercial ties. Rather, they mean that when the Americans treat us with such animosity and subject us to sanctions, it forces our nation to rely more on its own ability, ingenuity, and resources. Also, the regime will mobilize its entire force to combat this hostile act. This effort is beneficial. Countries who believe the U.S. wants to be the only superpower in the world will try to fill its place. Therefore, it is said that U.S. sanctions are to our benefit. [19 October 95]

On SALAM And Its Readers:

[Caller] I am sure that in certain cases you do not express your real views and opinions in your newspaper. Doubtless you have your reasons, but do you know that those who are informed will not value your newspaper anymore? You know that your readers are the cream of the crop. Then, strive to nurture them.

[SALAM] Tell us when you believe we have written things contrary to our belief. Hopefully, we will come to an understanding. [18 October 95]

[Caller] Daily the public is drawn closer to SALAM newspaper because SALAM decides either to print things that other newspapers do not dare to print or is not to their advantage. In the country's current situation, the public needs to be exposed to these topics. [22 October 95]

[Caller] Why do you not write anything about Mr. Karrubi? He, too, is condemned to silence like Ayatollah Ardabili. Are the Rowhaniyun-e Mobarez [the Combatant Clergy] limited to Mr. Mohtashemi? Why do they [Rowhaniyun-e Mobarez] not act? Is this lack of activity due to fear?

[SALAM] The silence of someone like Mr. Karrubi is certainly not due to fear. He probably puts the good of the country above his own.

[Caller] The law will catch up with you, too, for insulting our officials. One of these days the Ansar Party will accuse you of affronting it and will subject you to blows and curses. You should close your shop and give everyone some peace and quiet.

[SALAM] First, we want to tell this reader that closing SALAM will not bring peace and quiet. It will pacify only some. Second, the duty of the media is to constantly show sensitivity to matters that concern people and prevent them from leaving things to chance. As for the brothers known as Ansar Party, apparently they do not need laws. Their action demonstrates that if the goal and the instinct is to defend religious values, they are entitled to any act and are above the law. [23 October 95]

On Dr. Soroush's Talk at Tehran University:

[Caller] Since your reporter is only human, I suggest, that in cases such as the incident at Tehran University, you assign two reporters with antithetical views so that the truth might become known at least to the management of the newspaper. What your reporter recounted about the incident at the University was not impartial, since the reported comments of one hezbollahi member was the complete opposite of what he actually said. It appears that your reporter is opposed to the Ansar-e Hezbollah Group.

[SALAM] It is obvious that we, as well as our reporter, are opposed to what these Ansarollah Brothers have done, and we strongly condemn these acts and warn the regime against a policy of silence and apathy. We find it dangerous for the system and the reputation of Islam to allow a group to act as it pleases when something is not to its liking. First, we find our reporter's account of the incident at the University completely objective. Second, aside from the reporter's account, out of respect for our readers, we published the Islamic Organization's statement as well as the letter of one of the members of the group known as Ansar-e Hezbollah to allow them to look at the incident from different points of view. We must add, however, that the incident was more regrettable than our reporter's story.

We advise the students and especially the Islamic organizations at the universities to stop sedition, to refrain from anything that might lead to agitation, and to consider differences as internal family matters because the spread of these differences are to the disadvantage of everyone in society. If the regime finds these sessions

and talks injurious, it should officially and through legal means prohibit them. [19 October 95]

[Caller] We have heard it said repeatedly by officials that Iran is the freest nation in the world. How do they reconcile that view with preventing Dr. Soroush's conference to take place at the Technical College of Tehran University? Do they favor or oppose such incidents? If opposed, please have them announce it through free forums.

[SALAM] According to the news published last week by the Cultural Revolution Council's meeting, it seems that people are responsible for their own protection. It is surprising that the president and the judiciary head dodged condemning a criminal act of aggression on city-dwellers' security. They satisfied themselves with a mere recommendation. It is not clear what is going on behind closed doors that prevents these gentlemen from taking a clear position. [21 October 95]

[Caller] Before the revolution, Tehran University was the center of resistance and political activities for students. It was not associated with any particular group. I would like to ask the students not to remain silent in response to the attackers of Dr. Soroush's talk. They should stand firm and resist.

[SALAM] We dismiss all suggestions that might add to the atmosphere of confusion at the university. The point is not to reject this reader's suggestion. Rather, since universities are frequented by young people, emotions run high. Therefore, anything that might cause further excitement should be avoided, however good their intentions. Our suggestion is that the students, with the cooperation and guidance of the professors, proceed through sensible means to persuade the country's officials that these acts are not to the advantage of universities and society. [21 October 95]

[Caller] How is it that those who claim to protect the right of Muslims across the world cannot tolerate a talk from a Muslim thinker? [21 October 95]

[Caller] Considering that on Wednesday, an ordinary and non-political talk was attacked, and considering further that the object of the attackers was Dr. Soroush and the members of the Islamic Organization of Tehran University, how can one talk about political activities by students and others? Who benefits from this disorderly and intimidating atmosphere? [22 October 95]

[Caller] In my opinion, all the media, whether radio, television, or press, including you yourself, have magnified the news of the gathering of the African Americans in protest against their political system by propagating it. Because at the same time that the news of this huge million-man gathering in front of the U.S. Congress was

recounted, an attack was made on an erudite Muslim. Not only did the U.S. police not attack the demonstrators, but rather it insured their safety. Do you have anything to say to this? [22 October 95]

[Caller] As a war veteran and a member of the Ansar Party, some of whom are basijis and some of whom fought at the front, I beg them to be more logical. It should be mentioned that some members of this group spent not even a single day at the front, and now they act as claimants. [22 October 95]

[Caller] The result of the clash of the Ansar Party and Dr. Soroush leads impartial individuals to sympathize with Dr. Soroush, which is precisely the opposite of what the agitators want. [22 October 95]

[Caller] If the attackers on the Technical College of the University of Tehran were only opposed to Dr. Soroush's talk, why did they attack the Islamic Society's office and beat and curse the individuals? [22 October 95]

[Caller] Regarding the recent event at the Technical College, I suggest that instead of the two sides fighting with each other and each side claiming to carry the banner of Islam, they ought to leave it to the religious ulema [religious authorities]. If the ulema fear debating Dr. Soroush because they might think people would think that they will validate him, it would be good to remind them that Dr. Beheshti debated Kianuri and Behazin [Nureddin Kianuri was secretary of the Tudeh Party for many years; Behazin was a socialist Air Force pilot]. Of course, that is if we think Dr. Soroush is as opposed to the system as those two were. [23 October 95]

[Caller] It would be good for the government to react decisively and through legal channels in response to the attackers of the Technical College so as not to be accused of being a part of it. Does not the government have the legal and manpower means? Why then does it allow some to threaten the rule of law and political and social stability? [24 October 95]

[Caller] The speaker of the Majles congratulated the African Americans for their million-man march and their defense of human dignity. I don't know what should be said to the arrogant American government which lets such demonstrations take place. Should it be congratulated or offered condolences? It even released the news to the entire world. We, on the other hand, prevented a university professor from giving a talk and subjected him and his followers to attacks and curses. Furthermore, we either did not provide the news or disseminated it inaccurately. [24 October 95]

[Caller] Is not the recent Majles law on punishment incompatible with total participation by everyone in political and election activities? Did they not prepare

the grounds for the African American demonstrations in the U.S.? How is it that in our society the right to protest and criticize is limited more and more every day?

[SALAM] These people who are the subject of our hate have learned how to administer their society so that even if one million African Americans demonstrate and deliver the harshest speeches in front of the seat of power, it will not cause instability in the pillars of the government and nobody will be subjected to attacks and cursed for weakening the system. However, here we run the country so that a conference addressing an audience of two thousand in a confined area worries us. We turn it into the problem of the day. And, in spite of all claims of strength, we cannot hide our deep fear and we attack them, claiming that it will weaken our youth's faith and beliefs. We are unaware of the big question mark we create in the minds of young people, which will not easily be erased. [24 October 95]

[Caller] Please say a few words about Mr. Soroush's views. Is he prevented from talking because he is right or is wrong?

[SALAM] Some consider Dr. Soroush's thoughts and ideas contrary to religion. Others believe that his thoughts would help the growth and advancement of religious culture. What is important is that the two groups respect each other's views and those interested read and hear discussions. The result of this exchange of ideas will lead to social growth. [24 October 95]

[Caller] Tell the brother who said: "If we were not present, not only the speech and the pen of Mr. Soroush and 'Abdi [Translator's note: 'Abbas 'Abdi, SALAM's editor-in-chief was arrested and held prisoner for his writings for many months in August 1993 without ever being charged] would have been in danger, but so would have been their lives," that we believe in and respect the hezbollahi brothers. But Mr. Soroush must be able to speak and Mr. 'Abdi must be able to write. We are free to choose the good and cast away the bad. I promise this hezbollahi brother that Islam and the system are not in danger. [24 October 95]

On Iraqi Elections:

[Caller] Why did the Ministry of Foreign Affairs not agree to send Iranian reporters to observe the Iraqi elections? We should have been able to see upclose whether Saddam has the support of his people and is, in fact, popular. It seems that we missed a good opportunity.

[SALAM] The Iraqi Embassy, claiming that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs does not want any reporters sent to Iraq, refrained from giving any visas until the last days. By the time it announced that it was ready to

give visas, there was no time to send any reporters. Fortunately, some newspapers were able to send reporters to Iraq. We must wait to see the result of the polls. It should be mentioned that we and possibly the Ministry of Foreign Affairs do not know how certain newspapers were able to send their reporters there. [19 October 95]

On Lack of Justice in Enforcing the Law:

[Caller] How is it possible for a 12-year old child to go to prison for stealing four chickens while the former managing director of the tobacco company can embezzle millions of dollars and remain free; and free to associate with Majles representatives? I can testify in which representatives' houses I have seen him. [18 October 95]

On Simple Life Led by Some Representatives:

[Caller] I saw Mr. Morteza Nabavi riding a common motorcycle at the intersection of Taleqani and Vali'asr today. I was delighted at his humility and modesty. I believe these individuals deserve to be encouraged.

[SALAM] Aside from our differences in political views, the particularities of Engineer Morteza Nabavi, director of RESALAT newspaper and the representative of Tehran, are admirable in our opinion, too. The above-mentioned instance is testimony to his simple way of living. [23 October 95]

Pakistan

Editorial Claims India Manufacturing New Missiles

BK1601133396 Karachi JASARAT in Urdu
16 Jan 96 p 4

[Editorial: "An Indicator of Indian Designs"]

[FBIS Translated Text] According to reports, India has started preparing a new missile "Akash." This missile will provide cover from air attacks for Indian artillery, armored troops, and tanks. In 1994 India prepared the "Agni," a missile with a range of 2,000 kilometers. It is also believed that India is preparing to test the Prithvi missile in the Pokaran area. India's war mania is constantly growing. India justifies its new missile by claiming that it faces a threat from Pakistan's growing military power. India's pretext is totally absurd, as Pakistan has never been a military threat to India. In recent years, Pakistan's defense capability was adversely affected by the Pressler law, while India continued to collect arms from various countries, including the United States, during those years. India has made remarkable progress in manufacturing its own military equipment. There was a time when India claimed China was a threat, but over the past two or three years Sino-Indian relations have

greatly improved and the two countries have either removed their troops from the border areas or pulled them back. The process of normalizing relations with China continues. India does not face a threat from any country including China. Despite that, India is busy gathering different types of destructive weapons. This proves that India dreams of emerging as a big power in the region and in the world. Its activities are a part of its hegemonistic designs.

Bhutto's Stand on Nuclear Issues Supported

BK1601133296 Rawalpindi JANG in Urdu 16 Jan 96 p 10

[Editorial: "Pakistan's Stand on Nuclear Nonproliferation"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has made it clear to the Canadian Prime Minister Mr. Chretien that unless India signs the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty [NPT], Pakistan will not unilaterally sign any such agreement. The Canadian Prime Minister, who is currently visiting Pakistan, asked Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto to sign the NPT. Pakistan and Canada enjoy friendly relations. Pakistan's first nuclear reactor was installed in Karachi with Canadian assistance. Canada has assisted Pakistan in many other development projects. A team of Canadian investors is accompanying the Canadian Prime Minister on his visit and it is hoped that a number of agreements will be signed between the two countries.

Concerning the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons, Pakistan has made a proposal in the United Nations that South Asia should be declared a nuclear-free zone. India was the only country who opposed this proposal because it would have forced it to sign the NPT. In fact, India has launched baseless propaganda against Pakistan and is not ready to give up its nuclear preparations. Pakistan is very clear in declaring that it will not accept any restrictions unilaterally. It has already capped its nuclear program under U.S. pressure and does not want to become totally defenseless by signing the NPT. Therefore, Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's response to the Canadian prime minister is very appropriate and is in accordance with the requirements of Pakistan's defense and its integrity.

Bhutto Discusses Afghanistan With UN Special Envoy

BK1701024796 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 16 Jan 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto urged all Afghan leaders to end infighting, to sit together, and sort out their differences to promote a peace-

ful settlement of the Afghan problem. She was talking to Mahmoud Mestiri, UN special envoy on Afghanistan, who called on her in Islamabad today. She reiterated Pakistan's full support for restoration of a lasting peace in war-shattered Afghanistan. During his meeting, the UN special envoy briefed the prime minister about the latest efforts of the UN special mission aimed at pushing forward the peace process in Afghanistan. Mahmoud Mestiri appreciated Pakistan's positive role in resolving the conflict, and stated that the UN special mission looks forward to full cooperation from all the neighboring countries of Afghanistan for a solution to the Afghan crisis. Foreign Secretary Najmuddin Sheikh and Qazi Humayun, Pakistan's ambassador in Afghanistan, were also present during the meeting.

Yesterday, Mahmoud Mestiri had an in-depth exchange of views with Foreign Minister Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali. During the meeting, the two sides discussed the prevailing situation in Afghanistan, and examined various proposals, as well as means for bringing rapprochement and reconciliation to Afghanistan.

Foreign Minister Ready for Kashmir Talks With India

BK1701103096 Islamabad THE NATION in English 17 Jan 96 p 1

[PPI article: "Repression in Valley Hinders Talks Resumption With India: FO"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad — "Pakistan is willing for talks with India on Jammu and Kashmir issue but her continuing policy of repression in the Indian-held Kashmir has frustrated our efforts for resumption of dialogues", Foreign Office spokesman said here on Tuesday.

Commenting on Indian Foreign Minister Pranab Mukherjee's statement expressing his country's readiness to resume Pak-India dialogue without any preconditions, the spokesman told the PPI [Pakistan Press International] that the Government of Pakistan's position on the issue was very well-known.

He said Pakistan wanted meaningful and result-oriented talks with India and it was possible only if the core issue of Kashmir was discussed in a structured manner.

Pranab Mukherjee had told reporters in New Delhi on Monday that India was ready to resume talks with Pakistan without any preconditions.

"We welcome Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto statement that Islamabad is keen for further dialogue with New Delhi. But there is no official communication from Pakistan to resume it", Mukherjee had stated.

Canada's Chretien Urges Nuclear-Free South Asia
*BK1701032596 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network
in Urdu 0200 GMT 17 Jan 96*

[FBIS Translated Text] Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chretien has lauded Pakistan's efforts to make South Asia a nuclear weapons-free zone. Before his departure from Islamabad after his visit to Pakistan, the Canadian prime minister said Pakistan's efforts to make South Asia a nuclear-free zone will assist international efforts to prevent further nuclear tests in the region.

He said: Canada has signed the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, and we hope that all the countries will sign it.

Spanish Defense Staff Chief Meets With Leghari
*BK1601141196 Islamabad PTV Television Network
in English 1300 GMT 16 Jan 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] President Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari has said Pakistan is situated at the crossroads of several important regions and civilization and could play a crucial role for peace and development in the region and the world. He was talking to the visiting chief of Spanish defense staff, General (Jose-Rodriguez Rodriguez) who called on him at the Aiwan-i-Sadr [President House] today. The president said Pakistan wants a peaceful solution of the Kashmir problem which could not be solved militarily because the entire population has been alienated due to the gross human rights violations by more than 600,000 Indian forces for the last several years. He said after the return of peace and stability in the region, Pakistan could act as a window for mega development projects in the Central Asian Republics, South Asia and the Middle East. He hoped that Spain and Pakistan would also have more cooperation in some high-tech areas and joint ventures in traditional and nontraditional items.

Later, in special ceremony held at the Aiwan-i-Sadr, the president conferred the award of Nishan-i-Imtiaz [National Award]- Military on General (Jose-Rodriguez Rodriguez) in recognition of his outstanding services and prominent role in strengthening the defense forces of the two countries. Air Chief Marshal Farooq Feroze Khan, chairman of joint chief of staff committee; General Jahangir Karamat, chief of the army staff; and other senior and defense officials were present on the occasion.

Talks With Defense Minister

*BK1701065396 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network
in English 0500 GMT 17 Jan 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Spanish defense delegation headed by the chief of the defense staff, General

(Jose-Rodriguez), called on the defense minister, Mr. Aftab Shaban Mirani, in Rawalpindi yesterday. During the exchange of views, the defense minister informed the Spanish delegation about massive human rights violations in occupied Kashmir by the Indian forces. He expressed the hope that Spain and other peace-loving countries would help solve this problem in accordance with the UN resolutions.

The Spanish chief of defense staff also called on the chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee, Air Chief Marshal Farooq Feroze Khan, and the chief of the Army staff, General Jahangir Karamat.

Iranian Official Discusses Rail Links

*BK1201144696 Islamabad PTV Television Network
in English 1300 GMT 12 Jan 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The leader of the Iranian trade delegation, Mr. Rafiq Dost, has said his country has undertaken a gigantic project to build rail link with Central Asian Republics— which, on completion, would usher in an era of prosperity and development among the bordering countries, including ECO [Economic Cooperation Organization] members.

Talking to newsmen today before his departure from Quetta for Karachi en route to Tehran, Mr. Rafiq Dost said that the project would cost about \$300 million and would be completed by the end of this century. He said the rail link would be touching Pakistan and Afghanistan before connecting Central Asian states. Mr. Rafiq Dost said Iranian Government would also undertake to renovate and repair the damaged rail and road links in Pakistan for smooth functioning of the communication system.

Mr. Rafiq Dost said the basic idea behind his current visit was to study opportunities to make investment in the fields of gas, petroleum, construction of roads, dams and electricity, and other industries mutually agreed between the two brotherly countries. The leader of the trade delegation said [an] Iranian company was also interested in laying gas pipelines in various cities in Pakistan and, in this connection, negotiations were under way with concerned authorities.

The leader of the Iranian trade delegation also informed that Pakistan and Iran have decided to make operational two sick textile mills in Balochistan and, in this connection, Iran would provide all the financial assistance and technical know-how. He said these two sick mills, namely Bolan Textile Mill and Uthal Textile Mill, would be made operational within eight months, and all necessary equipment, engineers, and other technical staff would be brought from Iran, who would provide assistance within the stipulated period.

Iranian Speaker Lauds Senate Statement*LD1601115696 Tehran IRNA in English
1045 GMT 16 Jan 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad, Jan. 16, IRNA — Iran's Majlis Speaker Hojjat-ol Eslam 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri has lauded the Pakistan senate for openly condemning the recent anti-Iran moves of the U.S.

In a message to the Senate chairman Wasim Sajjad the Iranian speaker said, "I would like to draw your kind attention to this recent moves of the American ruling clique against the Islamic Republic of Iran which contravene the prevalent international laws and norms and are repugnant to the spirit of the U.N. charter and the principle of the sovereignty of nations."

He said overt and blatant approval of U.S. budget for carrying out subversive and terrorist operations against the Islamic Republic of Iran, in fact, amounts to preparation of new grounds for taking identical measures against all countries which seek to lead independent life."

"Should this arrogant policy of America not be countered in a coherent and coordinated manner, national sovereignty and territorial integrity of all Islamic states will fall victim to the U.S. law of the jungle," Nateq-Nuri said.

The Iranian speaker said, "as your excellency are already aware, anti-Islamic policies and activities of America for gaining allround hegemony over Islamic states have assumed vast dimensions since the victory of the Islamic Revolution in Iran."

"The Islamic Republic of Iran has constantly been exposed to political, military, economic and cultural offensives of America. But due to divine blessings, resistance on the part of the Muslim and revolutionary government and people of Iran, and support by the Islamic ummah, all these onslaughts have met with failure," Nateq-Nuri concluded.

Deportation of MQM Leader From UK Requested*BK1401114496 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English
14 Jan 96 pp 1,4*

[Report by Aroosa Alam]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad, Jan 13 — Following detailed discussions with the British Home Secretary during his recent visit to Pakistan, the Pakistan Government has for the first time requested the British Government to deport MQM [Muhajir Qaumi Movement] chief on charges of sponsoring and fostering terrorism in Karachi from the British Soil.

Confirming reports Saturday evening, the Interior Minister General (Retd) Babar said Pakistan had sent incriminating evidence about the involvement of Altaf Hussain in the acts of terrorism and killings in Karachi to the British Government seeking his deportation from Britain.

The Interior Minister said that during his discussions with the British Home Secretary in Islamabad last week, he was made to understand that the British Government would give serious consideration to Pakistani request if convincing evidence against MQM Chief was provided by Islamabad.

The Interior Minister was talking to THE MUSLIM this evening at the valima reception of President Leghari's son. He said in past Pakistan had not approached the British Government official for the expulsion of Altaf Hussain. The matter was directly taken up by Pakistani authorities at the Interpol level but now we have approached the government with enough evidence. The Interior Minister said that his ministry had just sent documentary and visual evidence to the British Government. He said we have sent some video tapes and press clipping of Altaf Hussain's statements provoking his party men to wage an armed war against the government. "We have also sent his statements in which he has refused to lay down arms and surrender criminals before the authorities to start political dialogue with the government.

Gen Babar expressed great optimism regarding a better future understanding with the British Government on the issue of Altaf Hussain's extradition or expulsion from UK. He said he is confident that after examining the solid proofs and incriminating evidence against the MQM Chief, the British Government would seriously consider the expulsion of Altaf Hussain to a third country. He said the two sides have also made some progress on the matter of signing of an extradition treaty but the agreement was not likely to be concluded in the near future.

Culture Minister Assassinated by 'Unidentified' Men*BK1601102396 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English
16 Jan 96 pp 1,4*

[Report from Lahore Bureau]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Jan 15: The Advisor to the Prime Minister for Culture and Literature and prominent Shia leader and noted poet Syed Moshin Naqvi was assassinated late Monday [15 January] evening. Mr Naqvi, who had also received Pride of Performance in recognition of his poetic work, was attacked by unidentified persons armed with automatic weapons

near Allama Iqbal Town Police Station. He was on his way to home his business office in the Moon Market, Allama Iqbal Town, when his car was sprayed with bullets.

According to police sources, he had become a victim of sectarian terrorism. An eye-witness, said some bullets hit Mr. Naqvi. He was rushed to hospital, but expired on the way. The police immediately cordoned off the area.

Syed Moshin Naqvi was over 50. He was one of the important leaders of the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP). At present he was member of its cultural wing and president of PPP Punjab Writers Wing.

Moshin Naqvi belonged to D G Khan. In 1977 general elections, Zulfikar Ali Bhutto awarded him PPP ticket for National Assembly against Maulana Mufti Mahmud.

He was one of the founders of Tehrik Nifaz Fiqah Jafria (TNFJ). He also founded Alqaim Shia Youth Organisation. It may be added that a fresh wave of sectarian killings has started in the province. On Jan 9, Director General Provincial Excise, Syed Sajid Gilani along with his driver was killed by two motorcyclists in Lahore. Two days after, nine persons were shot dead in indiscriminate firing at Shorkot.

Allama Sajid Ali Naqvi, Chief of TJP (Tehrik-Jafaria Pakistan), has condemned the assassination of Mohsin Naqvi and censured the Punjab, administration for its failure in curbing the terrorists activities.

The TJP chief has appealed to the Shia community to remain calm on the sad incident.

Threats Force Tightened Security at Karachi Airport

BK1601123396 Karachi DAWN in English 16 Jan 96
p 3

[Report by staff reporter in Karachi]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Jan 15: The District Malir administration has beefed up security around Quaid-i-Azam International Airport to counter security threats.

It has been decided that no car or any other vehicle would be allowed to be parked at the airport parking area for more than six hours.

The decision has been taken at a meeting, chaired by DC [Deputy Commissioner] Malir Muhammad Siddiqui Memon.

The DC has directed the SDM Airport to promulgate an order under section 144 Cr.P.C. [Criminal Procedure Penal Code, which bans the assembly of five or more people]. Regarding prohibition on parking whereas the

CAA [Civil Aviation Administration] and the Traffic Police have been directed to maintain "strict vigilance" of the parking area for the enforcement of the order.

The police, in liaison with the ASF [Airport Security Force], have been asked to carry out snap checking of the vehicles at entry points and in the parking lot to ensure proper implementation of the parking time.

However, there would be a separate parking area for official vehicles of various departments and agencies for delayed and prolonged parking.

Those who want to park their vehicles for longer periods will have to establish their credentials and justify the request for parking for more than six hours.

The meeting directed the CAA to install search lights at police checkpost, established along the outer parameters of the runway on a directive from the Sindh Home department.

The CAA has also been directed to ensure that these lights do not create any trouble for the landing aircraft. The CAA undertook to do the needful within a month and also, clear the area of wild bushes. It also decided to whisk away vehicles, parked outside the departure lounge of airport "without a driver."

Meanwhile, it directed the traffic police, ASF and police to jointly share the responsibility of the "parking of vehicles" outside the departure lounge side till the question of responsibility of parking at this place was determined in line with the proviso of ASF Act.

The Director Airport was directed to provide space for establishment of a police check-post along the outer parameters of the runway towards Model Colony to guard "funnel area" already existing police check-post was earlier removed on an objection from the military authorities. Besides, a separate place will be demarcated for SDM and DSP Airport for performance of their "hectic duties".

The Director Airport undertook to have the "Porters Room" handed over to the district administration soon or make any other arrangement in one month.

The DC has urged all agencies, including FIA [Federal Investigation Agency], ASF and district administration, to work in "close cooperation" with each other in case of any incident at the airport having international bearing.

The security plans for hijacking incidents and airport contingency plans are to be submitted to the DC-DM Malir district within a week.

AJK Official Rules Out Expulsion of Afghans*BK1301104096 Peshawar THE FRONTIER POST in English 12 Jan 96 p 12**[Report by Ishaq Wani in Muzaffarabad]*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The protest campaign against the presence of Afghan nationals in Azad Kashmir has attained wider dimensions with the joining of five more Kashmiri organisations in the strike observed here Thursday, bringing the business activities to a stand-still for two hours from 10 am to 12 noon. The organisations are Jammu Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF), National Students Federation D(NSF), JK National Liberation Front (JKNLF) and Jammu Kashmir Liberation League (JKLL).

Although participation in the protest campaign is not a party decision we support it and condemn the police excesses on the protesters, said Zahid Akram advocate, a JKLL leader.

The call for strike was given by National Awami Party (NAP), the upgraded form of the NSF, its students wing, to demand total expulsion of Afghans from Kashmir and to condemn the use of force by AJK [Azad Jammu Kashmir] government against NSF activists last week in Rawlakot, in which one NSF activist was killed and two others wounded.

The strike here (Thursday) ended peacefully, except a minor clash between the protesters and the police at main market. Police [word indistinct] caused minor injuries to three protesters. Heavy police contingents was deployed to prevent any untoward situation.

Earlier, small groups of the NSF workers paraded the streets and made shopkeepers down their shutters and join the strike.

Over 500 protesters gathered at Upper Ada from where a big procession was taken out led by engineer Hassan Mehmood, president NSF, Ghulam Nabi of JKLF, Muhammad Afzal Mir NLF, Altaf Makhdooni, and Zahid Akram. The processionists were raising slogans demanding complete evacuation of Afghans from Kashmir.

The procession converged into a public meeting at Bank road, disrupting the vehicular traffic for about two hours.

Speaking on this occasion the NAP, NSF, JKLF, JKNLF and JKLL leaders blamed the government for its lenient policy towards the Afghan settlers, and gave March 31 as deadline for complete expulsion of the Afghans.

It may be recalled that the AJK administration had issued notifications in September last year banning

activities of Afghan hawkers in AJK for their alleged involvement in unlawful activities.

Meanwhile, the AJK Prime Minister, Sardar-Abdul Qayyum Khan said here Thursday afternoon that the elements behind the anti-Afghans protest campaign were fed from outside the state.

Replying to a question at a meeting of AJK official dom at Azad Kashmir Radio, he ruled out the possibility of expelling the Afghans saying "they are our brothers who stood by Kashmiris in their jihad from 1947 till now."

He termed it a "dishonesty" and against the norms of humanity to demand expulsion of Afghans and said it were only a few people who were doing so only to capture the business and property of Afghans present in Azad Kashmir.

Torkham Checkpoint Closed to Afghan Refugees*BK1401133696 Islamabad THE NATION in English 14 Jan 96 p 1**[Report by Behroz Khan]*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Peshawar: Following the recent spate of terrorist activities in Peshawar, Pakistan has once again closed the Torkham check post and increased patrolling along the Durand Line to stop entry of Afghan families traveling without proper documents.

"The restriction is made due to the fresh influx of Afghans. We don't want more refugees as we have limited resources," commented a government official. However, he denied that the step had anything to do with the spate of blasts in the Frontier province. The official said Afghans with proper documents are being allowed to enter the country.

The border was sealed soon after the departure of Ittehad-i-Islam chief Prof Sayyaf, a close ally of Afghan President Borhanoddin Rabbani who visited Pakistan on January 4 this year. Sayyaf held talks with officials of the Inter Services Intelligence at Landikotal. Afghans believed the visit did not help break the ice between the two countries. However, Pakistani officials hoped that Kabul has agreed to send a high level delegation to Islamabad.

Afghans reaching Peshawar through the mule tracks in Khyber, Kurram and Mohmand agencies revealed that Afghan women and children are forced to pass through all odds to escape death and starvation. "I won't have embarked on this journey had I been sure of my family's survival in Kabul," revealed Muhammad Naeem who along with his five member family traveling for some eight hours on foot crossed over to this side of the

border. We did not have enough money to pay to the guards on both sides of the border," he said.

Eyewitnesses claimed that border guards use batons against women and other Afghans who wait throughout the day at the main Torkham gate in a hope of being allowed to enter Pakistan.

Afghan Intelligence Official Among Detained 'Terrorists'

BK1501082096 Islamabad THE NEWS in English
15 Jan 96 p 12

[Report by Peshawar Bureau]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The suspected terrorists, recently arrested in Islamabad and shifted here for interrogation by CID [Criminal Investigation Department] police, conceded that they wanted to assassinate former Afghan king Zaher Shah's son-in-law Sardar Abdul Wali during his visit to Pakistan last year.

They also told the interrogators that they killed Gen Hakim Katawazai, a firm supporter of the ex-monarch, after having failed to assassinate Sardar Wali.

The 18 suspected terrorists, 15 of whom are Afghans and the remaining three Pakistanis, were apprehended a few days ago from a wedding in Islamabad.

Among those arrested is an Afghan, known by the name Ansari, who was head of Kabul's intelligence agency KHAD's investigations and research section.

The law-enforcing agencies have become active and have picking up a number of suspects, mostly Afghans, in the wake of the Peshawar blast on December 21.

Alleged MQM Activist Arrested Amidst Karachi Violence

BK1601100896 Islamabad THE NEWS in English
16 Jan 96 p 1

[Report by THE NEWS correspondent]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] KARACHI: Police arrested a young man in the wee hours of Monday and declared him the killer of Syed Ahsan Shah, brother of Chief Minister Sindh Syed Abdullah Shah.

Syed Yureed Shahdat, 25, was arrested when a police squad raided his hideout in Akaal Bonga, District South, at around 6:00 am. Police alleged that the person had been involved in a number of heinous crimes in the F B-Area, District Central.

In the press conference, DIG [Deputy Inspector General] Karachi Dr Shoaib Suddle said a police team raided the hideout and arrested the young man, recovering a TT pistol with two magazines.

Syed Yureed Shahadat disclosed that he was in charge of the MQM's [Muhajir Quami Movement] Unit No: 151, F B Area and had gunned down Ahsan Ali Shah on November 23, 1995.

The accused also disclosed that he along with three other shot dead ASI Shirazi and Mahmood alias Chuttan at a shop in Akaal Bonga at the last new year night and confessed to have torched several vehicles on MQM strike calls.

The DIB said the investigation was in progress and more details will be released during the process.

Meanwhile, five people including an ex-cop, were killed and two others wounded in different violent incidents on Monday. Dozens of people were picked up from several parts of the city, mainly during a search operation in Liaqatabad.

Unidentified men kidnapped two people, subjected them to torture and shot them dead before dumping their bodies in Korangi. The victims were identified as Syed Farzan Ahmed, an ex-Police constable, 35, and Muhammad Asif Butt, 17.

Court Rejects 'Open Trial' for Alleged Coup Plotters

BK1601100796 Islamabad THE NATION in English
16 Jan 96 p 12

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad: The Field General Court Martial (FGCM) Monday rejected the plea to hold open trial of coup case against Maj. Gen. Zaheerul Isalm Abbasi, Brig. Mustansir Billah, Gol Azad Minhas, Col. Inayat and others.

The FGCM turned down technical points raised by the defence counsels. In camera trial of the case will continue.

The Court Martial also rejected the appeal to adjourn hearing till after Ramazan. Next hearing of case will now take place on January 28 when prosecution witnesses will be cross-examined.

Meanwhile, the court proceedings Monday continued for four hours in Attock Fort.

New Army Chief Allowed To Choose Staff

BK1401133096 Islamabad THE NATION in English
14 Jan 96 pp 1,5

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad — The new Chief of Army Staff General Jehangir Karamat is not only the Army Chief appointed on seniority and merit basis but he will have also the privilege to choose the 'players' of his team.

Four Lieutenant Generals Humayun Bangash, Muhammad Akram, Ayaz Ahmad and Tanvir Hussain Naqvi retired last month after the decision to appoint General Jehangir Karamat as Army Chief. Four more Lieutenant Generals will retire in April or May. They include Nasir Akhtar, Nazar Hussain, Muhammad Tariq and Javed Ashraf.

Lt-Gen Nasir Akhtar, Lt-Gen Nazar Hussain, Lt-Gen Muhammad Tariq and Lt-Gen Javed Ashraf are at present performing their duties as Quarter Master General, Air Defence Command, Director General Training and Deputation and Crops Commander Gujranwala respectively. After the retirement of these officers, these posts will become vacant. Earlier, Director General Joint Staff, Muhammad Akram, MD Heavy Industries Taxila Lt-Gen Ayaz Ahmed retired and these post are still vacant.

According to defence observers General Jehangir Karamat as a professional soldier will abandon the policy of service extension. Likewise, retire in April 1996 will be replaced by those Major-Generals who are promoted to Lieutenant General.

General Jhangir Karamat has appointed senior officer of army Lt-Gen Ittikhar Ali Khan as Chief of General Staff. He was earlier working as Corps Commander Bahawalpur. Lt-Gen Ittikhar Ali Khan will retire on May 15 1997 and he will perform his duties for another year.

The observers said that General Jehangir Karamat will take important decision in appointments of Corps Commanders and the army officer's case.

The observers further said that since General Jehangir Karamat has become Army Chief on merit and seniority basis, hence he will take all the decision on merit and in the national interests which will also help enhance the professional capabilities of army.

Minister Renews Talks Offer to Opposition

BK1301120296 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 13 Jan 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The federal minister for information and broadcasting, Mr. Khalid Ahmad Khan Kharal, has again offered a meaningful dialogue with the opposition to resolve problems facing the nation.

Talking to newsmen in Gujarat today, he regretted that earlier offers of the government were not responded in a positive manner by the opposition leader. He said Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif is giving statements in favor of self-exiled leader Altaf Hussain who speaks of changing the geography of Pakistan and does not believe in the two-nation theory.

Answering a question about Kashmir, the information minister said the present government has forcefully projected the issue at all international forums, including the United Nations and the Organization of Islamic Conference.

To a question, the information minister said the government believes in the freedom of press and is taking all possible steps for welfare of journalists.

Sri Lanka

UK Urged To Crack Down on Tamil Tiger Fund Raising

BK1501014696 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 14 Jan 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Foreign Minister Lakshman Kadirgamar has appealed to Britain to crack down on fund raising by the Tamil Tigers. Mr. Kadirgamar said that the Tigers often used intimidations and threats against Tamil families in Sri Lanka to force moderates to support terrorist activity. He said the supporters of the Tigers are raising 250,000 pounds a month in Britain, and more in Canada, Australia, America, and other places where there were large communities.

In talks with Malcolm Rifkind, the foreign secretary tomorrow, the Sri Lankan minister will urge the British Government to take a tougher line over the use of Britain as a center for propaganda and subversion by the Tamil Tigers. Admitting that Colombo could not match the Tamil resources in putting across its views and policies, he said that most governments, including Britain and India, were nevertheless sympathetic to Sri Lanka's efforts to grant autonomy to the Tamil area. However, he saw little chances of a settlement without the elimination of the Tamil Tiger leader, Prabhakaran, who is likened to a leader of fanatical cult. Mr. Kadirgamar said that the world condemned the use of children as fighters — brain washed by propaganda and given suicide capsules to swallow if caught. He admitted, however, that until recently Colombo had a poor human rights record and could not command sympathy until it had passed laws against torture, and introduced human rights training for the armed forces, set up a commission to investigate abuses, and lifted the state of emergency in most of the country — all of which was now in place.

Government To Help Iraq Maintain Embassy in Colombo

*BK1201115396 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English
1045 GMT 12 Jan 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Sri Lankan Foreign Ministry has decided to give Iraq every possible assistance to help maintain its embassy in Colombo. Iraqi missions throughout the world are in danger of closing down as the government in Baghdad is unable to support them financially because of the UN economic embargo. The embassy in Colombo has been billed to close down on the 31st of this month. However, the Sri Lankan Government decided to intervene to meet the embassy's financial commitments and help Baghdad maintain a diplomatic presence in this country. Muslim leaders have pointed out that Sri Lanka is the first country to provide such assistance to Iraq.

Foreign Affairs Minister Lakshman Kadirgamar had previously conveyed Sri Lanka's opposition to the UN economic sanctions imposed after the 1991 war. Sri Lanka, which is one of the several Iraqi trading partners suspected by the sanctions, has also voted against the embargo at the United Nations. [sentence as heard]

India Provides Loan of 1.62 Billion Rupees

*BK1501022296 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English
1045 GMT 14 Jan 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] India provides a loan of 1.62 billion rupees to Sri Lanka. This is the first time India provided a large sum of money since 1973. An agreement in this connection was signed in Colombo by the Indian high commissioner, Nareshwar Dayal, and the acting secretary to the Finance Ministry, (Don Lynagalle), recently. (Mr. Lynagalle) said that in 1987 India granted a loan of 250 million rupees. This year's loan is consequent to the talks of the leaders of the two countries last year.

Norway, Sweden Provide Loan for Power Project

*BK1501122196 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English
1045 GMT 15 Jan 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Norwegian and Swedish Governments will provide 2.37 billion aid in a 3.99 billion power project, while the CB [expansion unknown] will meet the balance rupees 720 million. With this assistance, a double transformer grid substation at Anuradhapura, a grid substation at Amparai, and a 132 kilowatt transmission line between Inginiyagala and Amparai would be built. This project will provide power

to the Eastern, Central, Northwestern, and North Central Provinces, as well as to the Jaffna, Kilinochchi, and Mannar districts. The contractors to the project are A.B.B. International Transformers of Norway and Lanka Transformers, which is a CB subsidiary. The loan for this project was signed in Colombo on Wednesday [10 January] and implementation began the following day. The project is expected to be completed in 34 months.

LTTE Leaders Reportedly Engaged in Power Struggle

*BK1401111896 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English
0804 GMT 14 Jan 96*

["LANKAPUVATH/OANA/POOL" Item]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Colombo, Jan 14 (LANKAPUVATH): The higher echelons of the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] are engaged in a power struggle.

Official sources told LANKAPUVATH that according to intelligence reports, Tiger Deputy Leader Karikalan who is now running the terrorist operations in the East with Karuna as the military wing leader, is reported to have boasted that if he were the leader of the LTTE instead of Velupillai Prabhakaran, he would not have allowed the city of Jaffna to fall to the security forces in December last year. Instead, Prabhakaran had sent him to the East during this period with orders to reorganise the LTTE there.

Another intelligence report states that media spy, the London-based Vasantha Raja, is making a firm bid to oust the Paris-based Lawrence Thilagar as the LTTE's international spokesman. Vasantha Raja was recently refused entry to India by the authorities after he arrived on a flight from London to attend a conference in Madras to discuss extra-judicial measures to set up a separate state for Tamils. Intelligence reports also state that Vasantha Raja who earlier used the BBC's 'Sandesaya' programme to surreptitiously promote LTTE terrorism and also served for a short while as a Tiger mole in Colombo, may well meet his Waterloo in his attempts to replace Thilagar as the terrorist organisation's international spokesman.

LTTE Claims Government Building Naval Base Near Jaffna*BK1401120196 (Internet) Tamil Eelam News WWW in English 12 Jan 96*

["Press Release" issued by Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam in London on 12 January]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Sri Lankan Government is building a mini naval base in a hurry in the little island of Mandaitheevu which lies a short distance off the coast of Jaffna. This will be the third naval base that the Government has built around Jaffna in an attempt to form a steel ring around the coast of Jaffna peninsula, the other two being the bigger naval bases in Karainagar and Kankesanthurai.

The Government is also hurrying to buy more Super-sonic fighters, helicopter gunships, naval gun boats, and armoured tanks, all of which are quite clearly intended to be used against the Tamil people to crush their demand for Justice and Peace. This clearly shows that the Sri Lankan Government does not believe in finding a political solution to the continuing national conflict in the Island, which has been going on for the past four decades. [Signed] Political Committee, Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam

LTTE Dispatch Details Attack on EPDP Positions*BK1601121796 (Internet) Tamil Eelam News WWW in Tamil 14 Jan 96*

[FBIS Translated Text] The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam [LTTE] extends its Pongal [a festival of harvest in Tamil Nadu] greetings to the displaced people of Tamil Eelam. Under the current circumstances wherein we have lost our courtyards [Pongal rituals are carried out in the courtyards], we are saddened because of our inability to celebrate Pongal with pomp and pleasure. Let us take a pledge on this Pongal day to change this situation so as to be able to celebrate Pongal in our own courtyards merrily and to give priority to the steps for strengthening our national Army to achieve that purpose.

The third anniversary of the martyrdom of LTTE's senior commander Colonel Kittu and nine other comrades, who embraced martyrdom in the Bay of Bengal, is to be observed in Tamil Eelam the day after tomorrow. Reports say that arrangements have been made to observe commemorative functions in several parts of Tamil Eelam. Arrangements have been made to hold commemorative functions as well as meetings to pay homage to the martyrs on Thiruvil grounds at about 1700 the day after tomorrow.

Reports say that the island area controlled by the Sri Lankan Army, a position of the Eelam People's Democratic Party [EPDP], which works in collaboration with the Sinhalese Army, came under the attack by the LTTE this morning. These reports say that the LTTE cadres, who went on boats, are the ones who carried out this attack. Further reports on this as well as news from the headquarters are not available.

Meanwhile, the LTTE have launched attacks on Sri Lankan troops at two locations in Pandattarippu and Chulipuram. There is no report of damages suffered by the troops.

The Chandrika Kumaratunga government has been procuring combat aircraft, battle tanks, sophisticated (?light) aircraft, and warships from different countries. Three fighter aircraft from Israel arrived in Colombo last week. It has been learned that three more aircraft will arrive in Colombo by next week. The ships purchased from China have already arrived. Transactions have been finalized for the purchase of a number of frigates. Observers have stated that after receiving all the military hardware expected from Russia, China, and Israel, there is no doubt that the Chandrika Kumaratunga government will indulge in another major genocidal war.

Meanwhile, Anuruddha Ratwatte, Sri Lanka's deputy minister for defense, has informed Parliament that a major military operation will be undertaken in Kilinochchi and areas in the east. It has been learned that the Chandrika Kumaratunga government plans to conduct this military operation by the end of this month.

A correspondent from Colombo has expressed his view that Chandrika Kumaratunga's military operation is not going to achieve anything except to be further bogged down in the quagmire of misery of the Tamil people, who have been already facing untold sufferings as a result of Operation Riviresa.

The houses of Tamils in Colombo and its suburbs have been burgled several times by armed men who entered in military uniforms. Reports from the Sri Lankan side say that it has been discovered that under the pretext of searches, the gangs, who have been burgling the houses of Tamils, mostly comprise members belonging to the Army. It has also been found out that an officer at the level of sergeant from the military headquarters is the one who heads this gang comprising those discharged from the Army and those in service as well as antisocial elements.

The thirst of the Tigers is for the motherland of Tamil Eelam. Thanks.

LTTE: Church Used Like 'Concentration Camp'

BK1601085996 (Internet) Tamil Eelam News WWW
in English 15 Jan 96

["Press release" issued by the Political Committee of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam [LTTE] at "LTTE Headquarters" on 14 January]

[FBIS Transcribed Text]

St. Soosaippar Church in Jaffna like a concentration camp

It was reported on our press release of 08-01-1996, that majority of the Tamil civilians numbering more than one hundred who returned to their Sri Lankan army controlled village of Puthur East in Weligama on 07-01-1996, to collect their possessions from their houses, had been either captured or killed by the Sri Lankan army.

Five of these civilians have just reached the LTTE controlled area of Thenmarachchi after being released by the Sri Lankan army. They have revealed shocking stories.

They said that they under went severe interrogation and intimidation — an experience which was very traumatic. "Many people had been returning to their houses in army controlled territory to collect their things. We also went to our villages, locked our bicycles and started collecting our valuable possessions from our houses. Suddenly the Sri Lankan army rounded us up and started firing at us indiscriminately. Ponnudurai a villager was badly hit. He fell down and was bleeding profusely. The army arrested us, blind folded us, and then led us through houses and through our own narrow village lanes. We were imprisoned at a place in Point Pedro street."

They further described their nightmarish ordeal. "We were severely interrogated at this place. Then we were driven in an army bus to Achuvely and detained at the Kamachi hard ware stores. After which we were then taken blind folded and taken to St. Soosaippar Church."

They described how St. Soosaippar Church a religious place, has been transformed like a Nazi concentration camp. "In the church about 300 people captured in Jaffna town are held. They all belonged to 30 families. Most of the people are old. They have been traumatised through detention. They have a dazed look and are wandering around aimlessly within the barbed wire fences of the church like insane people. They are under fed and are suffering. They are constantly begging the Sri Lankan army to release them so that they can go to their families who are now refugees in Vadamarachchi, Thenmarachchi or Wanni. The church and the land

surrounding it has been barb wired by the army. It is like a concentration camp."

They further revealed the pathetic burials in the church. "So far 37 people have died under tragic circumstances in the church. Their burial was done by other detainees whose physical condition was poor due to lack of sufficient food and medical attention. The armed forces, come to the area out side the church in Tractors and load them up with bananas and jack fruits and go away. They also drive away with the village goats and poultry. We were given cooked food by the army which was impossible to eat. But we ate that to make sure that we survived."

One of the released captives, Sanjeevan a young child speaking from Thenmarachchi said "I lied to the army by under stating my age as nine in the hope that a very young child may be released. I managed to find out from the army that a relation of mine who went with us has been wounded by army fire. The army blind folded me and took me in an army ambulance to the military hospital at the Palali base where he was warded. I talked to him for about fifteen minutes and was then driven away blind folded."

Karunanathadevy a released woman captive said "I pleaded with the army to release me. After showing a lot of reluctance the army man said 'I will let you off. You just walk back through the army lines into the territory where you came from.' With my safety under question, I pleaded with the army to hand me over to the ICRC (International Committee of the Red Cross) so that they may transport me out of the Sri Lankan army held territory. He said 'If I hand you over to the ICRC, they will insist on receiving all the details of every other detainee. They also will want to visit all the detainees. Therefore I will not hand you over to the ICRC."

The five captives released by the Sri Lankan army who just reached LTTE controlled territory are: Karunanathadevy a woman and males — M. Sanjeevan, Kandasamy, Navaratnam, P Kannathan.

Available names of Tamil civilians who returned to Puthur and are still held captive by the Sri Lankan army are: Dharmakka a woman and Males — Papa Sundaralingam, Vanniappah Krishnamoorthy, Samappah, Kandiah, Jeganathan, and S. Ponnuthurai (warded at military hospital Palali).

LTTE forces launch attack within Sri Lankan military controlled Weligama

The LTTE forces launched attacks on the Sri Lankan armed forces within the Sri Lankan Military controlled

area of Weligama. The attacks were launched at Pandatharippu and Tholpuram. No further details are available yet.

[Signed] Political Committee, Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam

(English translation of the LTTE statement released by LTTE International Secretariat, 211 Katherine Road, London E6 1BU, United Kingdom. Tel/Fax: 0181-470 8593)

National Peace Council Backs Devolution Proposals

*BK1501030596 Colombo SUNDAY OBSERVER
in English 14 Jan 96*

[Unattributed report — received via Internet]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The National Peace Council (NPC) warns of a "protracted guerilla war" by the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] and urges the Government to quickly proceed with its devolution proposals which the Council describes as "positive".

A Council statement says:

The indications are that the war is far from ended with casualties continuing on both sides both in Jaffna itself and outside. The drain on the country's resources, both human and economic, is evident with large scale recruitment to the fighting forces on both sides taking place and in the deteriorating conditions of living of the displaced population.

With hindsight it appears to be the case that Operation Riviresa [Sunshine] although it tilted the military balance in favour of the government has not brought the country any closer to a real prospect of peace. On the contrary it has served to reinforce a military logic along with the prospect of protracted guerilla war. The human, political, moral and economic costs of the prolongation of this conflict at the present level of intensity is incalculable.

These developments have structured a political climate where both the government and LTTE have been driven to take extreme positions, building up the number of men under arms and characterising the other side as being inherently dishonest, deceitful, intransigent and incapable of negotiating a political settlement.

The position of the LTTE is that it was pushed into a corner with no other option given that the government had not negotiated in good faith and had begun to manipulate the negotiations to get a strategic advantage-militarily, politically and morally in the eyes of the international and Sri Lanka constituencies.

The position of the government is that the LTTE was demanding more and more concessions and making unreasonable demands as a way of using the negotiations to prove to its social base that the government would not honor the democratic aspirations of the Tamil people and that the only option available was to fight for a separate state.

The NPC holds the view that the peace negotiations were flawed from the very beginning. There were no legitimate and authoritative mechanisms for identifying and addressing the range of fundamental issues that lie beneath the civil conflict. Both sides failed to appreciate the internal imperatives of the other. Both failed to grasp the psychological dynamics of the personalities at play. Instead of developing the modalities that promote good faith, trust and confidence, both sides began to test the limits to which the other side would concede as a way of justifying their own positions in the negotiations to their respective social bases. Both wished to create the conditions such that if the negotiations would breakdown, that respective political positions would be vindicated.

The view expressed by President Chandrika Kumaratunga that the LTTE is an "outgrowth" of a long outstanding problem of unresolved Tamil aspirations is a clear recognition of the necessity for a political solution. The NPC believes that the government's devolution proposals are a positive point of departure towards the inescapable reality that a negotiated political solution is the sine quo non for peace in the country.

Accordingly the NPC calls on the government to present its Devolution Package to the Parliamentary Select Committee without footdragging and ensure that it accords with the democratic aspirations of the Tamil people, while securing the democratic rights of all other communities, and to submit it to the LTTE as a provisional basis for recommencing serious negotiations.

The NPC also urges the LTTE to give an indication of its own willingness to respond to the government's political proposals with an open mind once they have been presented to them as a provisional basis for negotiations. In the meantime also to ensure the basic human and democratic rights of the Sinhalese and Muslim communities living in the North-East and in the border areas.

Minister Releases 'Legal Draft'

BK1701052696 Colombo DAILY NEWS in English
17 Jan 96

[Unattributed report — received via Internet]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Justice and Constitutional Affairs Minister G.L. Peiris yesterday released the legal draft of the government's devolution proposals presented to the nation on August 3.

The legal draft which provides adequate safeguards to prevent any region succeeding from the union or declaring independence unilaterally was released by Prof. Peiris on a directive from President Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga.

Safeguards against secession is provided in the preamble and in Articles 2 and 26.

The preamble states "The territory constituting the nation shall form one indivisible nation, the units whereof shall be characterised by such boundaries and limitations on their powers and authority" and "the territorial integrity, independence and unity of the nation including its sovereign rights over land, sea and air shall be safeguarded".

Article 2 provides for the names, boundaries and areas of the regions to be clearly indicated in the First Schedule. It also bans any attempt, directly or indirectly, by any region to promote or otherwise advocate separation, secession, alteration of the area or boundaries, alteration of the name and the formation of a new region.

Article 26 provides the meeting of any of these situations. The president is empowered by that article to declare a state of emergency in the region concerned and take over its administration. The president is empowered to deploy the armed service or any unit of the national police to restore public order.

Article 26 (4) provides the president with the power for the administration of any region if he or she is satisfied that a situation has arisen in which the regional administration is promoting armed rebellion or insurrection or engaging in an intentional violation of the constitution which constitute a clear and present danger to the unity and sovereignty of the republic.

The legal draft does not contain the First Schedule which gives the names, boundaries and areas of the units.

Political sources said the question of the unit, specially that of the north and east, will be resolved at the Parliamentary Select Committee to which the legal draft will be presented either today or within the next few days.

Chapter 2 enumerates the place given to Buddhism and the State's commitment to give Buddhism the foremost place. This chapter makes it mandatory on the part of the State to consult the Supreme Council on all matters pertaining to the protection and fostering of Buddha Sasana [Buddhist tenets].

Chapter 3 deals with the devolution of power to regions. Each region will have a Governor and an elected Regional Council, a chief minister and a board of ministers. The governor who will be appointed by the president has been given the power to dissolve the regional councils. But he has to exercise that power in accordance with the advice of the chief minister, as long as the Board of Ministers command the support of the majority of the members.

The number of ministers allowed for the regions has been increased to six.

The regions will have High Courts with original and appellate jurisdiction and regional public service.

State land has been made a devolved subject with the centre reserving the right to make use of land it requires for its use.

Law and order will also be a devolved subject with the National Police in charge of national security and regional police looking after regional security.

Second Schedule contain two lists — the Reserved List which comprise 63 subjects and the Regional List with 46 subjects.

Ports with international transportation has been made a reserved subject while minor ports and harbours has been made a devolved subject.

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